

# Nixon Personality Tied To Mood of White House

6/26/73 By CHRISTOPHER LYDON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 25 —

Other former insiders have vaguely spoken of an "almost paranoid" mood in the Nixon White House and a fight-fire-with-fire reaction that undercut respect for law.

But today, John W. Dean 3d attributed the climate in the White House directly to the personality of President Nixon — a man, he said, who could not stand the sight of even one demonstrator in Lafayette Park, across the street from the Executive Mansion.

When Mr. Nixon was on tour, his former counsel told the Senate committee investigating the Watergate scandals this morning, standing orders required that demonstrators be "unseen and unheard." Once in 1971, Mr. Dean said, when protesters in Akron, Ohio, chanted and waved Vietcong flags across the street from the motel where the President was staying, Mr. Nixon ordered the Secret Service — apparently in blunt language — "to get the demonstrators out of there."

## 'Any Means' Authorized

"In early February of 1972," Mr. Dean continued, "I learned that any means—legal or illegal—were authorized by Mr. [H. R.] Haldeman [the President's former chief of staff] to deal with demonstrators when the President was traveling or appearing someplace."

Mr. Dean's testimony added a variety of new details to the general charge of political snooping and obsession with security within the Nixon Administration. For example, he gave the committee a written report by a White House

detective on Senator Edward M. Kennedy's trip to Honolulu in August, 1971 — prepared at a time when the Massachusetts Democrat was regarded as a possible candidate against Mr. Nixon in 1972 and was subject to a "general overview" by the President's personal investigators.

Mr. Dean also revived an account — long officially denied — that a top Secret Service official gave the White House politically damaging information in the spring of 1972 on Senator George McGovern, the South Dakota Democrat

when on his way to winning his party's Presidential nomination. The information, presumably gathered originally by the Secret Service agents guarding Mr. McGovern, was relayed to Charles W. Colson, then special counsel in the White House, and subsequently released for publication, Mr. Dean said.

## Broader Purpose

Beyond the specific new items, Mr. Dean's broader purpose, to which he devoted most of his first hour in the hearings, was to argue that the "climate of excessive concern" about demonstrations and the "instillable appetite for political intelligence," as he called it, derived from the President's own mood.

Mr. Colson, in a recent interview, attributed what was called the "almost paranoid" attitude in the White House to political critics and the sometimes violent threats of antiwar groups. Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President and a witness in the Senate hearings two weeks ago, said he relaxed his standard against illegal activity when he heard his college ethics teacher, Willoam Sloane Coffin Jr., the Yale chaplain, advocate draft evasion.

To Mr. Deane, however, it seemed that the official excesses began with Mr. Nixon himself. They were pursued, he said, at Mr. Nixon's personal insistence, and often without any justification in fact.

In the first two years of the first Nixon term, Mr. Dean said, tactical responses to antiwar demonstrations in the capital were drafted at the highest levels of the White House staff — including Mr. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, then the President's chief adviser on domestic policy.

## 'First-Hand Report'

As White House counsel, Mr. Dean said, he had tried to let the Justice Department and Washington's metropolitan police handle details involving demonstrators. Yet, when Vietnam veterans demonstrated against the war in the spring of 1971, Mr. Dean said, the President called him directly for a "first-hand report" and sub-

sequently received "hourly status reports" on the veterans' protest.

According to Mr. Dean, it was Mr. Nixon's personal "displeasure" with a lone demonstrator and his 10-foot sign in Lafayette Park that prompted a White House aide, Dwight Chapin, to recruit "thugs" to remove the demonstrator before Mr. Dean and the park police intervened and quietly persuaded the protester to move.

As recently as last March, Mr. Dean said, the President was pressing persistently for a report that would blame Senator McGovern and the Democrats for a variety of violent incidents during the 1972 campaign.

"We never developed a scin-

tilla of viable evidence," Mr. Dean testified, that protest demonstrations were funded by Democrats or connected with the McGovern campaign.

Yet, in a Presidential memorandum that Mr. Dean gave to the committee, Mr. Nixon said there was "hard evidence" linking anti-Nixon violence and property destruction to "the McGovern people."

Mr. Nixon mentioned in his memorandum that he had "raised this point to no avail on previous occasions." However, as part of the response to the Senate's investigation of the Nixon campaign, Mr. Dean said, the President suggested to him that "the facts on such activities should be accumulated and that somebody—perhaps [Senator Barry] Goldwater [Republican of Arizona] is the only man who has the guts to do it—should blast the McGovernites for their vicious activities."

Mr. Dean said the Nixon White House "thrived on polit-

ical gossip and political intelligence"—a statement that would apply to most Presidential staffs throughout American history. But he added, Mr. Nixon's aides seemed to share what Mr. Dean described as the President's unusually aggressive concern about the opposition.

## '24-Hour Surveillance'

In the fall of 1971, Mr. Dean said, Mr. Haldeman indicated to him through an aide that he wanted "24-hour surveillance of Senator Kennedy and regular reports on his activities"—an assignment that Mr. Dean said was subsequently limited to "a general overview" of the Senator and "specific investigations of activities that might be of interest."

In the spring of 1972, Mr. Dean continued, he later discovered that Mr. Haldeman had told Mr. Magruder "to transfer his intelligence gathering from Senator [Edmund S.] Muskie [Democrat of Maine] to Senator McGovern."

Senator Kennedy commented this afternoon that if, as reported, the Nixon White House staff would draft bogus diplomatic cables implicating his brother, President Kennedy, in the murder of President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, he would not be surprised that they would also order him tailed. A spokesman for Mr. Kennedy said the Senator had never been aware that White House detectives were following him.

## Full Faith in Agents

Senator McGovern said that even after Mr. Dean's statement today about the Secret Service's transmission of political intelligence, he had full faith in the agents who protected him during the campaign.

"I don't know that the Secret Service could be blamed if their reports were misused at the White House, Mr. McGovern said. "I don't know anything very interesting they could have picked up and passed on. But of course, I'd be shocked if a Presidential candidate were being tailed not to protect him but to gather politically sensitive intelligence for the White House."

Jack Warner, the press spokesman for the Secret Service, said that his agency, a branch of the Treasury Department, was now making its second investigation of the charge that its reports were used for partisan advantage. "We have yet to uncover anything to indicate the Secret Service was involved in this type of activity," Mr. Warner said.