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Ex-Official Testifies on Watergate

Washington

Former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian testified before the Watergate grand jury yesterday after a federal judge ordered him to disclose what G. Gordon Liddy told him three days after the Watergate arrests last June 17.

Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica rejected arguments by Mardian's lawyer that the conversation on June 20 between Mardian and convicted Watergate conspirator Liddy was a privileged communication between a lawyer (Mardian) and his client (Liddy).

Mardian, who followed former Attorney General John N. Mitchell from the Justice Department to the Committee to Re-Elect the President, was questioned by the grand jury for several hours.

According to an outline made to Sirica by principal assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert, Mardian was assigned to investigate the Watergate break-in for the re-election committee by Mitchell, who was then the Nixon campaign chief.

In a related matter, CBS News reported last night that the prosecution has refused immunity from prosecution to former White House Counsel John W. Dean III.

Dean has told investigators and White House aides that he can implicate former top White House aides H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman in a coverup of the Watergate scandal.

Dean is also reportedly prepared to assert that he believes President Nixon had knowledge last year of the coverup.

Government prosecutors, CBS said, believe they have enough evidence from Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy director of the Nixon campaign, to implicate higher officials, and that the time to bargain with Dean is after he is convicted.

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