

WKPPost

John Dean Won't Answer Questions of Panel

JUL 20 1973

By Susanna McBee

Washington Post Staff Writer

A reluctant John W. Dean III, fighting his forced appearance before a House Armed Services subcommittee, refused yesterday to answer questions about Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the Watergate scandal.

Dean, counsel to the President until Mr. Nixon fired him April 30, and his attorney, Charles N. Shaffer, refused to tell reporters why Dean invoked the Fifth Amendment in an hour-long closed session with the congressmen.

But Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of the subcommittee, explained that it had not granted Dean the limited immunity that he received when he testified for more than 25 hours. Nedzi noted that his subcommittee had subpoenaed Dean before the Senate

Watergate committee did and had deferred to the committee only after receiving assurances from Dean's lawyers that Dean would then appear before the House group.

After he was asked the first substantive question, Dean—who had replied to queries about his name, address, birthplace, and date of birth—made it clear he was pleading the Fifth over a five-day period last month before the Senate Watergate Committee.

Limited immunity means that Dean's testimony before the Senate unit could not be used against him in any court proceeding, but evidence gathered by prosecutors independently of the blame for the incident since some of the defendants were former CIA agents. Walters said no to both requests, Dean told the senators. Senate hearings could be used.

Shaffer vigorously protested the House subcommittee's insistence that Dean appear, Nedzi reported. In a letter dated Wednesday, Dean's lawyers

contended that "if word gets out that he has taken the Fifth, it will be prejudicial" to Dean, the congressman said.

After reviewing the lawyers' objections in a brief, private meeting, the subcommittee agreed to press its claim that Dean should comply with the subpoena it had issued him.

Amendment. Nevertheless, the subcommittee asked him 66 additional questions.

"We did so because we felt it was absolutely essential to make a complete record," Nedzi explained. Alluding to the fact that citing the amendment is not an admission of guilt, he added that it is "a legal privilege

which the committee has to recognize and wants to recognize."

Among the questions that Dean would not answer was one concerning his meetings with Gen. Vernon A. Walters, deputy director of the CIA.

Dean told the Senate Watergate committee last month that he tried in those meetings, held in late June, 1972, to get the CIA to provide money for support and legal fees for the seven men arrested in the Watergate break-in.

He also testified that he tried to find out whether the CIA would take the other unanswered question put to Dean was:

Did he know about the September, 1971, break-in, directed by the White House, of the Beverly Hills office of Dr. Lewis Fielding,

the psychiatrist of Daniel Ellsberg, who had leaked the Pentagon Papers to the press?

In another development that may relate to the Fielding burglary, special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox met yesterday with Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Symington's committee, like Nedzi's unit, has been looking into CIA involvement in the Watergate affair. The agency has admitted giving certain equipment—disguises, phony identification, a camera and a tape recorder—to E. Howard Hunt, a member of the White House "plumbers" team set up in July, 1971, to probe security leaks such as Ellsberg's disclosure of the Pentagon Papers dealing with American involvement in Southeast Asia.



Associated Press

Former White House counsel John W. Dean III, left, talks with his lawyer, Charles N. Shaffer, before Hill appearance.