

Bug Case Witness Decries Attacks By Judge at Trial

B. Carl Bernstein
and Bob Woodward

Washington Post Staff Writers

Hugh W. Sloan Jr., the former treasurer of President Nixon's re-election campaign, said yesterday that "attacks that have been made on my integrity" by the judge in the Watergate bugging trial "are totally unwarranted."

In a prepared statement issued to reporters, Sloan reiterated his testimony given as a witness in the trial that he had no foreknowledge of the bugging or other clandestine activities against the Democrats.

He said he had fully answered all questions asked by U.S. District Judge John H. Sirica, who presided over the trial, and those asked by the federal grand jury that investigated the incident.

Sloan noted in his statement that, on Friday, Sirica "for the third time publicly questioned the truthfulness and completeness of my testimony in the Watergate trial." He added, "I strongly resent the implications of Judge Sirica's statements."

Under questioning by Judge Sirica, Sloan had testified in the trial that former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell both verified that another campaign official could approve cash payments to one of the Watergate conspirators for intelligence-gathering operations. Earlier, Sloan had been asked by the prosecution if that other campaign official—deputy director Jeb Stuart Magruder—had authority to approve such payments and Sloan answered affirmatively without mentioning Stans or Mitchell.

Federal investigators have said that Sloan, a former White House aide, cooperated fully in their investigation of the Watergate case and that his testimony in the trial was consistent with what he told them earlier.

However, Sirica said last week, both the prosecution and Judge Sirica failed to question Sloan fully during the trial about his knowledge of cash payments that funded extensive espionage and sabotage activities against the Democrats.

The investigators said Sloan did not know the money would be spent on clandestine operations when he made the payments and that he quit as treasurer of the Nixon campaign when—after the Watergate break-in—he learned the purpose of the expenditures.

On the witness stand Sloan was asked only about expenditures of \$234,000 in cash that had been received by one of the convicted Watergate conspirators, former White House aide G. Gordon Liddy.

According to investigators, at least \$500,000 to \$650,000 more—also disbursed by Sloan from a safe in Stans' office—was spent on clandestine activities undertaken by the Nixon campaign. Those expenditures also were made with the approval of high presidential aides and advisers, according to the investigators.

On Friday, Judge Sirica said, "I have not been satisfied and I am still not satisfied that all the pertinent facts" in the case were brought out at trial and added, "I felt that neither the government nor ac-

tense asked Mr. Sloan any questions."

On the basis of Sloan's appearances on the witness stand, said Sirica, "have great doubt that Mr. Sloan has told us the entire truth in this case. I will say it now and I indicated that during the trial."

According to investigative sources, Sloan had made known that he would willingly testify about all money allegedly spent for undercover operations, who authorized the payments and who received them.

However, government prosecutors told him before he was called as a witness that such testimony was unnecessary to prove their case, the sources said. They reported that the prosecution told Sloan he would be asked only about the \$234,000 received by Liddy and whether Magruder had approved disbursement of the money and not about Stans, Mitchell and other presidential aides and advisers.

It was shortly after the prosecution had asked Sloan about Magruder's approval that Sirica began asking his own questions and elicited the testimony about former Commerce Secretary Stans, the finance chairman of the Nixon campaign, and former Attorney General Mitchell, the President's campaign manager.

In his statement yesterday, Sloan said, "I state categorically as I have previously under oath that I had no foreknowledge or involvement in the so-called Watergate affair."

"I have fully answered all questions put to me before the federal grand jury and at the Watergate trial itself, including all questions asked by Judge Sirica."