

A New Report on Nixon, Watergate

New York

Newsweek magazine suggested yesterday that President Nixon's counsel was ordered to protect top White House figures during the Watergate bugging investigations and, in doing so, kept important documents from the FBI.

Newsweek, in an article devoted to unanswered questions remaining after the bugging and conspiracy trial ended last week, said that according to other sources presidential counsel John Dean III not only kept papers from the FBI but used such documents to thwart the FBI investigation.

SOURCE

Defense sources said that Dean "had received orders to try to prevent federal investigators from tarnishing any figures in the President's inner circle," according to Newsweek. The magazine did not name the source of the alleged orders.

Dean, assigned to conduct a special investigation of the case for Mr. Nixon ordered an aide to clean out the executive office building and safe of E. Howard Hunt, a former Central Intelligence Agency agent who was the first to plead guilty in the Watergate trial. Newsweek said.

Four others also pleaded guilty and last week the two remaining defendants, form-

er aides to the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, G. Gordon Liddy and James McCord, were found guilty on all counts of burglary, wiretapping and conspiracy in the break-in of the Democratic national headquarters.

MATERIAL

Newsweek said Dean admitted he "reviewed and safeguarded the material (from Hunt's office) for week before turning it over to the FBI.

"But the defense source charged that Dean actually removed documents that might have lead the G-Men to administration top - siders," the article said.

"And Newsweek learned that some Justice Department officials also believed that Dean was using FBI reports to thwart the investigation, specifically by briefing a key witness prior to his appearance before a grand jury. Dean refused to comment on the charges," the Magazine said.

None of the seven defendants has been sentenced yet.

Reuters

Heath Home

Christchurch, England

Britain's prime minister Edward Heath returned home Saturday night from his official visit to the United States.

Reuters