

Many Sat In

Gray's Memo On Watergate Is Revealed

Washington

Several staff members of the Committee to Re-Elect the President said they could not be "completely candid" about the Watergate case with the FBI because a committee lawyer sat in on their questioning, it was disclosed yesterday.

In a memorandum on the investigation, dated July 21, 1972, acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III also revealed that presidential counsel John W. Dean III was present during all FBI interviews of White House personnel.

The Gray memorandum, submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee in connection with its hearings on Gray's nomination to be FBI director, also quoted unnamed sources on the Nixon re-election committee as stating that committee attorneys debriefed all staff persons who testified before the federal grand jury on the Watergate case.

"Another cooperative

source at the committee advised confidentially that committee officials during interviews were sending FBI agents on fishing expeditions to keep them from getting to the truth," Gray said in the memorandum.

REQUEST

In testimony last week, Gray said the memorandum summarizing the FBI's Watergate investigation through July 20 was prepared at Dean's request. Gray said he sent it to Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, who he thought had forwarded it to Dean.

The memorandum reported that several members of the Nixon campaign committee after being interviewed by the FBI contacted the bureau and asked to be questioned further "away from the committee headquarters and without the knowledge of committee officials."

The FBI document did not state whether agents followed up on the request.

DEFENSE

A former official of the committee said committee lawyers sat in on FBI interviews primarily to help prepare for a defense against a civil suit brought by Democrats over the Watergate case.

The former official, who insisted on anonymity, contended no pressure was exerted on committee employees to influence their statements to the FBI.

Asked why committee employees would request to be interviewed outside the presence of a committee attorney, the official said: "It would indicate to me they wanted to say something antagonistic and were afraid they might be fired. There was so much back-biting at the committee that it would not be surprising. Everybody had their freedom."

ROLE

It was not clear from Gray's memorandum what role Dean was playing when he sat in on the interview of White House personnel. President Nixon later said that he had asked Dean to conduct his own investigation of the Watergate and that Dean had assured him no one employed by the White House, at the time of Dean's report, was involved.

Among those interviewed at the White House, according to the memorandum, were: Charles W. Colson, special counsel to Mr. Nixon; David R. Young, a member of presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger's staff; Secret Service agent Alfred Wong; Bruce Kehrli, staff secretary to the President; Fred Field, Dean's assistant; and Kathleen Chenow, a former White House secretary who worked for two of the defendants in the Watergate case.

"All stated they were unable to furnish any information concerning (Watergate defendants E. Howard) Hunt's or (G. Gordon) Liddy's involvement in these matters involving the burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters," the Gray memorandum stated.

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