

Watergate Case

Gray's Talks to Nixon Counsel

Washington

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III and presidential counsel John W. Dean III were in contact 33 times on the Watergate investigation from late June to early February, Gray disclosed yesterday.

More than one-third of their contacts—12 of them—concerned asserted leaks in the FBI's investigations. All but possibly one of the telephone calls and meetings on leaks of information originated with Dean, whom President Nixon had named to conduct a separate investigation of the case.

Gray submitted the detailed tally of his contacts with Dean to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is conducting hearings on his nomination as FBI director.

In earlier testimony, Gray told the committee that

Dean sat in on all FBI questioning of White House personnel, and that he had sent Dean 82 FBI interviews in the case.

These interviewees included those of the employees at the Committee for the Re-election of the President, who asked the FBI to question them outside the presence of a Nixon re-election committee lawyer.

Also included, Gray confirmed in material submitted to the committee yesterday, was information from wiretaps on Democratic National Headquarters that was collected by Alfred C. Baldwin III, who later became the star government witness in the Watergate trial.

Disclosure of the contacts between Gray and Dean is likely to intensify demands by committee members, led by Senator John V. Tunney (Dem-Calif.), for Dean to testify at the hearing.

But while it appears likely



EPI Telephoto

JOHN DEAN III Thirty-three contacts

Tunney can muster at least the nine-vote majority needed to invite Dean, prospects for subpoenaing Dean and thus provoking a clash with the White House over executive privilege seem slim.

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