

10-12-9391
Previous Statements by Nixon

NYT
4-18-73

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 17—
Following are previous statements by President Nixon on the Watergate case, excerpted from news conferences:

Aug. 29, 1972

Within our own staff, under my direction, counsel to the President, Mr. Dean, has conducted a complete investigation of all leads which might involve any present members of the White House staff or anybody in the Government. I can say categorically that his investigation indicates that no one in the White House staff, no one in this Administration, presently employed, was involved in this very bizarre incident.

Oct. 5, 1972

I agreed with the amount of effort that was put into it [the Federal Bureau of Investigation's inquiry]. I wanted every lead carried out to the end because I wanted to be sure that no member of the White House staff and no man or woman in a position of major responsibility in the Committee for Re-Election had anything to do with this kind of reprehensible activity.

MARCH 2, 1973

I will simply say with regard to the Watergate case what I have said previously, that the investigation conducted by Mr. Dean, the White House counsel, in which, incidentally, he had access to the F.B.I. records on this particular matter because I directed him to conduct this investigation, indicates that no one on the White House staff, at the time he conducted the investigation—that was last July and August—was involved or had knowledge of the Watergate matter.

And, as far as the balance of the case is concerned, it is now under investigation by a Congressional committee and that committee should go forward, conduct its investigation in an even-handed way, going into charges made against both candidates, both political parties. And if it does, as Senator Ervin has indicated it will, we will, of course, cooperate with the committee just as we cooperated with the grand jury.

No President could ever agree to allow the counsel to the President to go down and

testify before a committee.

On the other hand, as far as any committee of the Congress is concerned, where information is requested that a member of the White House staff may have, we will make arrangements to provide that information, but members of the White House staff, in that position at least, cannot be brought before a Congressional committee on a formal hearing for testimony. I stand on the same position there that every President has stood on.

March 15, 1973

In this case, where we have the relationship that we have with Mr. Dean and the President of the United States—his counsel—that [informal questioning by Senators] would not be a proper way to handle it. He will, however—the important thing is, he will furnish all the pertinent information.

I have confidence in all of the White House people who have been named. I will express that confidence again. But I am not going to comment on any individual matter that the committee may go into.