

# To 'Reassure' Dean Told

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Washington

A source close to embattled White House aide John W. Dean III said yesterday that President Nixon telephoned his personal reassurances to Dean on Sunday, wishing him a "Happy Easter" and telling him "You're still my counsel."

Mr. Nixon, described as being cheerful during the call from Key Biscayne, Fla., discussed a number of White House legal matters not connected with the Watergate inquiry, the source said.

Deputy White House press secretary Gerald W. Warren said in Florida that he had no knowledge of the call to Dean. He also said he was unable to say whether Mr. Nixon had telephoned other White House aides who have become ensnared in the growing Watergate bugging controversy.

Meanwhile, Representative Henry S. Reuss (Dem.-Wis.), charged that Henry E. Petersen, the assistant attorney general who was named by the President to assume sole responsibility for the Watergate investigation, "torpedoed" a House inquiry into the break-in last fall by contending then that it would endanger the rights of the seven original defendants.

## DEFENSE

The Justice Department defended Petersen's opposition to the inquiry as proper and necessary.

The federal grand jury continued its investigation into the Watergate episode yesterday, but it was not known who, if anyone, testified. There were signs that no indictments would be issued this week, although at least five present and former White House aides are eventually expected to be named.

Dean was described as being pleased by the President's call "in the middle of the blitzkrieg," as one associate put it. Another source who said he knew of the call was more skeptical, however. "I can't understand it," he said. "You've got to be cynical as hell about it."

"Maybe he's trying to keep all of the sheep in the pasture until it's time for the slaughter," the Dean as-

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sociate said, "or else maybe he just thinks it'd be awfully nice to have one kid from his staff pull through this."

## REBUKE

Dean, who was publicly rebuked by White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler last week for issuing on his own a statement declaring that he would not be a "scapegoat" in the affair, has been telling friends that he will tell all to the grand jury investigating the Watergate episode.

The 34-year-old aide is known to have told friends that H. R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff and a key presidential adviser, was involved in the alleged coverup after the arrests of seven men inside the Democratic National Committee headquarters last June 17.

Mr. Nixon's call to Dean came amid increasing speculation about the President's knowledge of the case. Some

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former ranking White House officials are now telling friends that many efforts were made last fall to warn the President that some White House aides were involved in the bugging and the alleged cover-up.

## PLEA

There were these other developments:

● Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security affairs, pleaded for public under-

standing in the Watergate revelations. He told the annual Associated Press luncheon in New York that it was difficult "to avoid a sense of the awfulness of events and the tragedy that has befallen people alleged to have done these things for whatever reasons."

● Thomas A. Kennelly Washington, one of two attorneys representing G. Gordon Liddy, the leader of the Watergate break-in team who has refused to cooperate with the grand jury, told newsmen he was withdrawing from the case because his client would not listen to him. Liddy, who is in jail, has reportedly been defying White House pressure to talk.

● Congressional sources disclosed that yet another secret 1972 campaign fund was kept in a southern California bank under direction of Herbert W. Kalmbach, one of President Nixon's chief campaign fund raisers. The sources, in confirming an account in the Washington Star-News, said upward of \$200,000 in cash was handled through at least four separate bank accounts controlled by Kalmbach, who met last week with the Watergate prosecutors.

● Judge John J. Sirica, chief of the federal court here, ordered a grand jury investigation into leaks of secret testimony. His action followed the publication of four articles by Jack Anderson, that were apparently based on grand jury transcripts. Sirica also refused a request by convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr., to travel to England for a television appearance.

## REPLY

Anderson later issued a statement defending his columns, saying that under the Constitution, "we are free to publish any and all news generated by the White House, the Congress or the courts. No federal rules of criminal procedure supercedes the Constitution." Anderson said.