

Dean Linked to ITT Cover-Up



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WE NOW HAVE evidence that ex-White House counsel John Dean directed not only the Watergate cover-up but the earlier ITT cover-up as well. In both cases, he obstructed investigators, suppressed evidence and tried to influence the testimony.

Here's what we have now learned about his ITT operation:

- During the ITT hearings, he would slip up to Capitol Hill and operate out of Vice President Spiro Agnew's office. On one occasion, Dean phoned the Senate Judiciary Committee and asked a secretary to deliver a message to attorney Edward P. Taptich. The lawyer, formerly associated in the same law firm with Dean, represented ITT consultant Jack Gleason who had been called to testify. The secretary handed Taptich a note, asking him to contact Dean in the Vice President's office.

In these august quarters, the two men discussed what Gleason might be asked on the witness stand. Then Taptich huddled with his client before the testimony.

- As part of our case against ITT, we turned over to the Senate the celebrated Dita Beard memo, which linked the settlement of ITT's antitrust troubles with a \$400,000 commitment to help finance the Republican convention. The Senate asked the FBI to determine whether the memo was a forgery and got back a report that it was written on Dita Beard's typewriter with the ribbon she was using on the day

it was dated.

But unknown to the Senators, Dean asked acting FBI chief Patrick Gray for the memo. Not long after Gray delivered the memo to Dean, it was sneaked to ITT which hired its own experts to try to prove it was a forgery.

- Most flagrant of all, Dean was behind the suppression of 34 cartons of documents that ITT had delivered under subpoena to the Securities and Exchange Commission. These papers included confidential memos which contradicted the sworn testimony of then-Attorney General John Mitchell at the ITT hearing and implicated Vice President Agnew and former Treasury Secretary John Connally in the ITT antitrust fix.

Under the law, the SEC falls under the jurisdiction of Congress, so House Commerce Chairman Harley Staggers, (Dem-W.Va.), asked to see the ITT documents. But then-SEC Chairman William Casey defied Congress and sent his executive assistant, Charles Whitman, and general counsel, Bradford Cook, over to the White House on the hustle. They spent an hour with John Dean.

"There's a number of people like the Vice President . . . and Mitchell (in the documents) and it looks like they're going to be used for political purposes," Whitman reported to Dean. The White House counsel advised them not to send the documents up to Capitol Hill, at least not without a subpoena.