

# DEAN TIED TO PLAN FOR RING TO SPY ON 1972 PROTESTS

Reported to Have Offered Money for Infiltration of Antiwar Groups

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LINKED TO CONVENTIONS

Interior Official Is Said to Have Rejected Proposal to Direct Operation

NYTimes

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 13 — John W. Dean 3d, the former White House counsel, actively attempted to set up an undercover espionage and intelligence ring to infiltrate antiwar protest groups before the Democratic and Republican National Conventions last year, Government sources said today.

The sources said that Mr. Dean summoned an official of the Interior Department to his office in May, 1972, two months before the Democratic convention in Miami Beach, and offered him a large sum of cash either to participate in or to direct an undercover network.

The official, Kernith Tapman, who handled negotiations for the Interior Department before the massive antiwar demonstrations in Washington in 1969 and 1970, acknowledged in a brief telephone interview that Mr. Dean had made the offer. Mr. Tapman refused to discuss the incident further.

## Said to Reject Offer

Other sources familiar with the incident said, however, that Mr. Tapman was distressed at Mr. Dean's offer and rejected it out of hand. Investigators have not yet determined whether the infiltration program ever did get set up before the convention, the sources said.

The report of Mr. Dean's recruiting attempt was the first to link him to any direct involvement in any Republican spying operations that, by May of last year, had been set up elsewhere in the White House and in the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Mr. Dean had previously acknowledged participating—under orders, he maintains—in the cover-up of the break-in at the Watergate offices of the Democrats on June 17, 1972.

## Other Developments

There were these other developments yesterday:

Newsweek magazine quoted Mr. Dean as saying in an interview that President Nixon never asked him for a report on the Watergate case and that he never wrote one. He was quoted as saying he was "flabbergasted" when Mr. Nixon quoted his alleged report in a news conference, saying that it had concluded that no White House officials had been involved in the bugging of the Democratic headquarters.

Time magazine, quoting a close associate of Mr. Dean,

Continued on Page 20, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

said that Mr. Dean and his wife, Maureen, had been working "into the nights" to gather evidence showing that the White House aide did not meet with the President between the Watergate arrests and Mr. Nixon's Aug. 29 statement clearing his aides. "That would make an outright lie of Nixon's press conference statement," Time magazine said, "unless someone above Dean has misled the President."

Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee, the ranking Republican on the Senate Watergate investigating committee, said in a television interview that he "would not exclude the possibility" that Mr. Nixon would be offered an opportunity to "state his side of the case" to the committee. Mr. Baker also said that, if the President was found to be guilty of any involvement in Watergate or its cover-up, "clearly he would be impeached."

## Focus of Debate

Mr. Dean has become the focal point in an increasingly public debate over who was responsible for what in the weeks and months after the Watergate break-in. Last week he was reported to be ready to implicate President Nixon in the cover-up of the break-in, but Federal and Senate sources subsequently told The New York Times that, in separate meetings over the last few weeks, he provided them with no evidence of Presidential involvement.

Later last week, Mr. Dean charged that there was "an ongoing effort to limit or prevent my testifying fully and freely" in connection with the Watergate episode. He further said, in a statement released through his attorney's office, "Restrictions have been placed

on the scope of my testimony as it relates to the White House."

At least one of his attorneys has been active in providing newsmen with "authoritative accounts of the alleged White House cover-up, but Mr. Dean, in his statement, insisted that the prior news articles about his testimony "have not been authorized by me, nor have they come from my attorneys."

## Anger Over Immunity

Last week the Senate committee, obviously eager to obtain Mr. Dean's testimony about the involvement of White House higher-ups in the cover-up, granted him immunity from further prosecution during his Congressional testimony. The move angered the Federal prosecutors investigating the case, who argued that immunity would make any criminal case against him far more difficult to prosecute.

Mr. Dean and Mr. Tapman began their association at the time of the antiwar demonstrations in Washington in 1969, the sources said. Mr. Dean was serving then as a Justice Department official charged with coordinating the Government's response to demonstrations. Mr. Tapman was assigned by his Interior Department superiors to help arrange permits and other necessities for the demonstrators on Government property.

Mr. Tapman has told associates that he was surprised at the involvement of Mr. Dean and the White House in undercover police work.

"He knew that there were legal and official means to get information on protests [from various Federal police agencies]," one friend said, "and that there was no need to go outside of official channels."

Government sources said that when Mr. Dean moved over to the White House in 1970, he continued to monitor student antiwar and radical activities, along with a small, unofficial White House force assigned to handle the student protest problem.

Others on the force by 1971, the sources said, were Egil Krogh Jr., the Under Secretary of Transportation who resigned last week after disclosures about his role in the burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, and John J. Caulfield, a Treasury Department official who went on administrative leave today after The Los Angeles Times reported that he had tried to put pressure on James W. McCord Jr., one of the Watergate break-in team, to keep quiet with a promise of executive clemency.

One Government source provided the following account of the Dean-Tapman meeting:

"In May of 1972, John Dean called Tapman into his office and asked him if he would be willing to do undercover work at the Republican and Democratic conventions. Tapman was

indignant but said, 'I might be willing to do what I did for you guys two years ago [when Mr. Dean was at the Justice Department] if I could work above-board.'

## 'No Part of It'

"But if you're asking me to spy and to go undercover and infiltrate some organizations, I'll have no part of it." So Dean says, "I'll have to look into whether we can arrange that kind of an aboveboard deal. But if you don't want to go undercover, there's plenty of money and if you want to hire people to do it, we'll give it to you."

Investigators have not determined how much money was budgeted for the infiltration operation, the sources said, nor is there any information as to where such funds came from.

Federal officials have said that some of the funds used to finance a similar espionage and spying operation directed by officials in the office of H.R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff who resigned two weeks ago, were supplied by

Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's former personal attorney who served as a Republican fund-raiser in 1972.

One reliable source noted that Mr. Dean's "whole experience at the Justice Department was in dealing with infiltration and undercover work in radical groups."

"When he went to the White House," the source added, "His principal job was not to advise the President legally, but rather it was to continue what he had been doing at Justice — keeping an eye on radical groups."

Mr. Dean's chief deputy, the source said, was Mr. Caulfield, who joined the White House staff of John D. Ehrlichman, the President's domestic adviser, in 1969 after serving as a plainclothes man with the New York City Police Department and working as a bodyguard for John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General who was indicted last week, luring the 1968 campaign. Mr. Caulfield joined the re-election committee late in 1971, the source said, to work again for Mr. Mitchell.

An associate of McCord's confirmed today that the Watergate conspirator had been approached by Mr. Caulfield at least once early this year and urged to remain silent in return for an assurance of executive clemency after serving 10 or 11 months in jail.

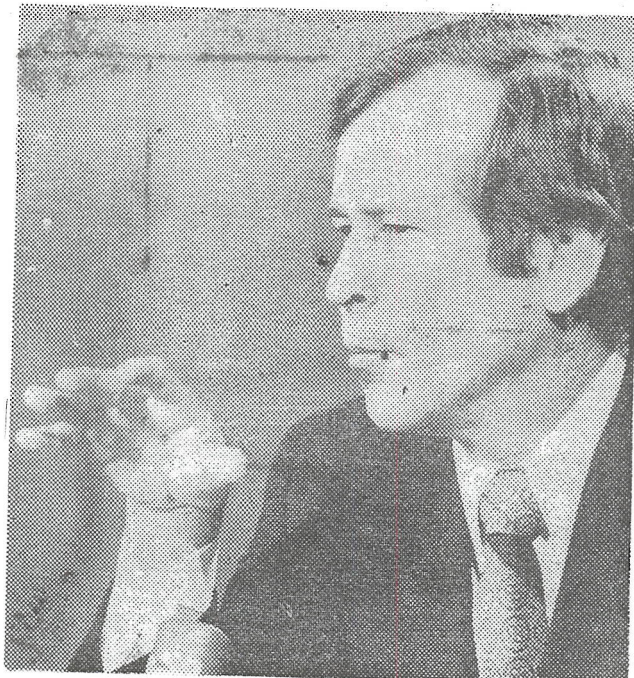
The Los Angeles Times said that two secret meetings between McCord and Mr. Caulfield were held in woods across the Potomac River from Washington.

Mr. Caulfield, who is 44 years old, is known to have interviewed McCord two or three times before McCord was hired as director of security for the re-election committee late in 1971.

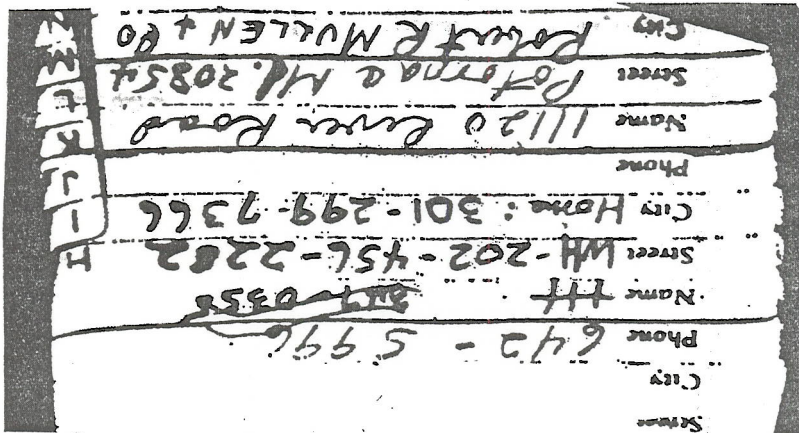
Some time before the election, the source said, Mr. Caulfield was hired as assistant director for criminal enforcement of the Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau.

Treasury officials said that Mr. Caulfield had requested "administrative leave" today and received it "through normal channels."

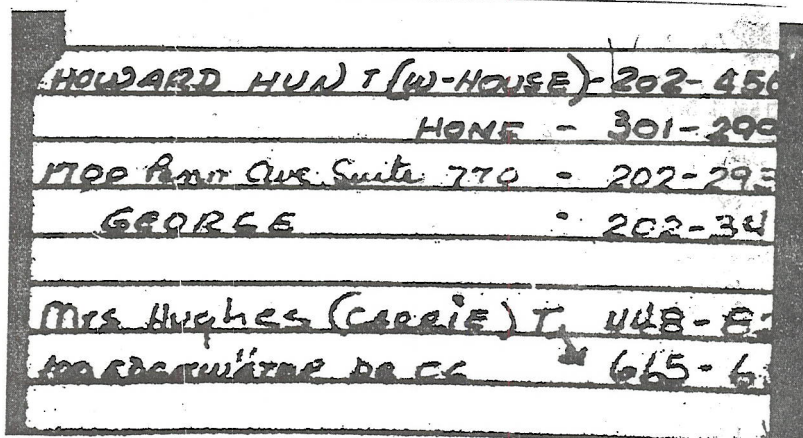




United Press International  
 Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., Tennessee Republican, commenting on Watergate case during a TV interview.



CLUES IN THE INVESTIGATION: Items taken from the men arrested at the Watergate building on June 17, 1972, included these address books



N.B.C. News  
 with the home and "W. House" telephone numbers of E. Howard Hunt Jr. He is now in District of Columbia jail, serving a tentative 35-year term.