

Lawyer Says Dean Asked Him To Spy on Miami Protesters

By Paul W. Valentine
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A former Interior Department lawyer said yesterday that recently fired presidential counsel John W. Dean III attempted to recruit him to organize a spy network to infiltrate and monitor radical antiwar groups heading for the Republican and Democratic conventions in Miami Beach last summer.

Kenneth C. Tapman, unemployed at the time, said Dean called him into his office in late April or early May, 1972, and offered him the job. Dean indicated that the surveillance apparatus would be independent of and parallel to that of existing governmental agencies such as the FBI and that Tapman would "not be working in an official capacity," Tapman said.

A long time acquaintance and one time professional colleague of Dean, Tapman said he turned Dean down flatly.

"It's the only time in my life that I've been speechless," he said. "I was personally insulted that they thought I would do it."

Dean could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Tapman and Dean had worked closely together in 1969 and 1970 as key attorneys for the government in negotiations with antiwar demonstration leaders for many of the mass rallies that shook Washington in those years.

Dean was then an associate deputy attorney general in the Justice Department, and Tapman was a lawyer in the solicitor's office of the Interior Department. Tapman is now a compliance officer with the recently created presidential Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In a telephone interview from Honolulu yesterday, Tapman said Dean did not indicate how extensive the antiwar spy network was to be or who authorized it.

He said Dean called him at home after obtaining Tapman's unlisted telephone number and asked him to come to Dean's office in the

Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House.

"What we really need is information on what's going to happen down there (Miami Beach) for both conventions in the way of demonstrations and disruptions," Tapman quoted Dean as telling him.

"That's dangerous," Tapman said he replied.

"Well, you don't have to do it—you can hire people to give you the information," Tapman said Dean answered.

"I said no . . . I was pretty angry," Tapman said.

Dean offered him "good pay," he continued. "He told me, 'You won't get rich, but you can make some money.'"

Tapman said Dean did not indicate during the half-hour meeting where the money would come from.

He said Dean indicated to him that "it would be my show to run" and that it would involve covert operations and the recruitment of persons to masquerade as demonstration activists who

would relay intelligence to Dean through Tapman.

By contrast, Tapman said, he was also approached in the spring of 1972 by the Senate Administrative Practices Subcommittee, headed by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), to assist in handling the demonstrations in Miami Beach.

But, he said, "they wanted me in a strictly above-board capacity . . . to act in an official capacity where I would be making judgments and decisions as a publicly known liaison between the police and the demonstrators."

He said the idea fell through when Miami Beach Police Chief Rocky Pomerance failed to reply to a letter from the subcommittee recommending Tapman.

James Flug, subcommittee majority counsel, said yesterday he recalls recommending Tapman, along with other persons "with known expertise" in handling demonstrations, to either Pomerance or other

government agencies involved in the Miami Beach actions.

"Our subcommittee was in the business of watching demonstrations," he said, "and on a strictly apolitical basis, we tried to help various agencies like the Justice Department's Community Relations Service and Pomerance's police force."

He stressed that the activity was to be "above board." Tapman said one arrangement that had been discussed was for him to be hired as a "consultant" with funds from the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA).

There was no need for a covert intelligence gathering apparatus, like the one suggested by Dean, Tapman said, because the FBI and other agencies "were already set up for that kind of thing" and able to respond immediately to information affecting the security of conventions and the presidential candidates.

Dean did not say what if any official role he was playing when he offered Tapman the spying job, Tapman said, "but I assumed he was acting as the President's counsel."

At the Watergate bugging trial here earlier this year, Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy campaign manager of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and other Republican officials testified that convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy was authorized \$100,000 to organize covert surveillance of the Miami Beach demonstrations, including payments of \$1,000 per month to college-age informants.

Dean's name was not mentioned in connection with the testimony. Magruder and others also did not say whether the spy network ever became operational.