



Nixon Aide Says Dean May Be Telling Truth

Washington

A White House official has conceded that John W. Dean III may be telling the truth in saying he was "flabbergasted" to hear President Nixon absolve his staff of Watergate blame last August on the basis of a Dean study.

Patrick J. Buchanan, special consultant to the President, said Thursday in a Newsday interview that he does not recall whether he talked to Dean before preparing the briefing material upon which Mr. Nixon based his now-controversial statement at an August 29 press

conference.

Buchanan's briefing book was the only written material Mr. Nixon received concerning the results of the so-called Dean investigation, White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler has said.

"I don't recall where I got the guidance for that," Buchanan said. "I don't know if I talked to Dean or (John) Ehrlichman . . . I've gone through my backup material for the 29th press conference and I can't find any written record . . . but I wouldn't have done it alone."

What Mr. Nixon said August 29, at a press conference on the lawn of his San Clemente estate, was: "Mr. Dean has conducted a complete investigation . . . I can



PATRICK BUCHANAN
Briefing book

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."

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