

# Caulfield Asserts He Believes President

## EX-POLICE OFFICER REPORTS CONFLICT

Tells Senators He Was Torn  
Between His Conscience  
and Loyalty to Nixon

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WASHINGTON, May 23 — John J. Caulfield, who has acknowledged acting as a White House representative and offering executive clemency to James W. McCord Jr., said today that he believed at the time he made the offer that it had been sanctioned by President Nixon.

Mr. Caulfield told the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities that John W. Dean 3d, Mr. Nixon's former counsel, had never told him explicitly that the President had authorized the offer of clemency.

Mr. Dean had instructed him to approach McCord. Mr. Caulfield said, and to say that the promise of clemency came "from way up on top."

"In my mind," Mr. Caulfield testified, "I believed that he was talking about the President."

Mr. Caulfield said he never told McCord, who was convicted in the Watergate burglary and conspiracy, that Mr. Nixon had made the offer but that he wanted McCord to get that impression.

Mr. Nixon, in a statement yesterday, denied that he had ever approved a promise of clemency to anyone involved in the Watergate scandal.

### Conscience vs. Loyalty

Mr. Caulfield, a former New York City police detective who is now on paid leave from the Treasury Department, pictured himself to the committee as a man torn between his sense of right and wrong on one hand and his intense loyalty to the President on the other.

In answer to a question from Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., Republican of Connecticut, Mr. Caulfield said:

"I know when wrongdoing is occurring. I knew that the offer of executive clemency in this matter was wrong. Yes, sir, I knew that. But what I am saying to you, sir, is that my loyalties, especially to the President of the United States, overrode those considerations."

He told the committee that he had "come from a rather humble background, a police officer," and that he treasured "this great opportunity to serve on the President's staff."

"I felt very strongly about the President, extremely strongly about the President," Mr. Caulfield continued. "I was very loyal to his people that I worked for. I place a high value upon loyalty."

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## Authorized Clemency Offer

### to McCord

When he walked out of Mr. Dean's office after receiving instructions to approach McCord, McCord, Mr. Caulfield recalled, "it crossed my mind that this conceivably was for the President." He added:

"I believed it. I had to think about that. And, based upon all of that background, I believed I was doing something for the President of the United States, and I did it."

### Friendship With McCord

Mr. Caulfield said there was another consideration that added to his personal conflict—his friendship with McCord. "I was hopefully being able to help a friend," he said.

The committee's chairman, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, usually spices his Senate speeches and private conversations with anecdotes from his earlier days as a student, a lawyer and a judge.

In the first three days of the Watergate hearings, however, he was notably restrained, sticking to direct questions. But Mr. Caulfield's conflict led Senator Ervin to remark:

"Well, it is proof of what my old philosophy professor told me — that the greatest trials we have in this world are when you are compelled to choose between different loyalties, some of which are conflicting."

Mr. Caulfield read a long statement to the committee yesterday about his role in contacting McCord. Today, he was questioned by the committee for a little more than an hour.

Basically, he confirmed what McCord had told the committee — that there had been three meetings and several late telephone calls between McCord and Mr. Caulfield and that he had offered McCord executive clemency in return for McCord's silence about the Watergate conspiracy. Mr. Caulfield said McCord never agreed to accept the offer.

But, whereas McCord said he had been threatened and urged to plead guilty, Mr. Caulfield testified that there were no threats and no direct pressure on McCord to plead guilty.

Mr. Caulfield also denied telling McCord that the President was aware of their meetings and might have a message for McCord.

Although Mr. Caulfield said time and again that he had the impression that Mr. Nixon had sanctioned the promise of clemency, he told the committee:

"I have no and did not at that time have any direct knowledge that the President had made such an offer, endorsed such an offer or in any way was involved in that offer."