

HALDEMAN DENIES ROLE IN COVER-UP; CONFLICT WIDENS

Former Aide Says He Did Not
Tell General Walters to
Seek Curb on F.B.I.

JUN 1 1973

EHRlichman DISPUTED

Cushman Says C.I.A. Data
Shows Domestic Chief

Asked Aid for Hunt
NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 31—The conflict between top former White House aides and officials of the Central Intelligence Agency over their roles in the Watergate case widened today.

H. R. Haldeman, once President Nixon's closest aide, denied "categorically" before a Senate

Haldeman text and excerpts
from Ehrlichman, Page 16.

subcommittee that he had participated in a Watergate cover-up.

Mr. Haldeman disputed earlier testimony from Lieut. Gen. Vernon Walters, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, that he had instructed General Walters to try to get the Federal Bureau of Investigation to stop investigating certain aspects of the Watergate affair.

Later, in another aspect of the case, Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., the former deputy director at C.I.A., who is now commandant of the Marine Corps, said that a check of the agency's records left no doubt that John D. Ehrlichman had asked him to give assistance to E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Difference in Testimony

Hunt, who pleaded guilty to the Watergate conspiracy, allegedly used the agency's paraphernalia to break into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's, psychiatrist in the summer of 1971.

Yesterday, Mr. Ehrlichman, who was President Nixon's chief domestic adviser, told the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Intelligence Operations that he did not remember

having asked the C.I.A. to help Hunt. Mr. Ehrlichman said it was highly unlikely that he had done so.

Senator John O. Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island, after hearing Mr. Haldeman's testimony today, complained of "glaring inconsistencies" between the testimony of Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman on the one hand and General Walters and General Cushman on the other.

Two Points at Issue

There are two basic points of conflict.

The first is over what was said at a White House meeting on June 23 that was called on President Nixon's orders. At the meeting were Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Ehrlichman, Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence, and General Walters, Mr. Helm's deputy.

The second concerns the source of instructions to General Walters to provide assis-

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tance to Hunt.

Mr. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff until he resigned April 30 because of Watergate disclosures, testified for more than two hours before the subcommittee this morning. He then read a brief statement to newsmen but refused to answer their questions.

He began his statement by saying, "I can categorically state — and would like to — that at no time, nor in any way, did I suggest, direct or participate in any cover-up of the Watergate investigation."

Actions Called 'Proper'

He went on to declare, "I neither asked the C.I.A. to participate in any Watergate cover-up, nor did I ever suggest that the C.I.A. take any responsibility for the Watergate break-in."

Mr. Haldeman concluded his statement as follows:

"I believe all of my actions were proper, in accord with the President's instructions and clearly in the national interest. Beyond that, I have nothing further to say at this time on this matter."

According to Senators who were at the hearing, Mr. Haldeman's testimony, for the most part, paralleled that given yesterday by Mr. Ehrlichman, the President's former adviser on domestic affairs.

Testimony Seem Conflicting

The Senators reported what Senator Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island, called "glaring inconsistencies" between the testimony of the two White House aides and that of officials of

the Central Intelligence agency who have been questioned by the subcommittee over the last three weeks.

The basic conflict is over what was said at a White House meeting on June 23 that was called on President Nixon's orders. At the meeting were Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Ehrlichman, Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence, and Mr. Helm's deputy, Lieut. Gen. Vernon Walters.

General Walters told Congressional committees earlier this month that he had been ordered by Mr. Haldeman to try to get the Federal Bureau of Investigation to stop investigating Mexican aspects of the Watergate case.

At that point, the bureau was looking into the manner in which \$89,000 had been passed from the President's re-election committee through a Mexican bank into the hands of the Watergate burglars.

General Walters said that he was supposed to tell L. Patrick 3d, then acting director of the F.B.I., that further investigation could compromise certain activities and resources of his agency in Mexico.

Haldeman Recalls Parey

Mr. Haldeman, in his statement to newsmen today, gave his version of the conversation at the meeting as follows:

"General Walters was asked to meet with Director Gray to insure that any unrelated covert operations of the C.I.A. or any unrelated national security activities had been previously undertaken by some of the Watergate principals not be compromised in the process of the Watergate investigation and the attendant publicity and political furor.

"This was done with no intent or desire to impede or cover up any aspect of the Watergate investigation itself. Any other actions taken or suggestions made by others were without my knowledge and without the knowledge of the President."

Senator John L. McClellan, the subcommittee's chairman, noted the "very substantial conflict" and seemed incredulous about some of Mr. Haldeman's testimony.

For example, Mr. McClellan, an Arkansas Democrat, said he could not understand why, if their story were accurate, Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman had not simply asked Mr. Helms whether C.I.A. operations would be endangered.

Mr. McClellan noted that on June 22 — the day before the White House meeting — Mr. Helms told Mr. Gray that the C.I.A. had not been involved in the Watergate burglary and that agency operations in Mexico would not be endangered by the F.B.I. investigation.

Haldeman Called 'Vague'

Mr. McClellan said that he had asked Mr. Haldeman about

the conversation and that Mr. Haldeman's answer had been "somewhat vague" and "not entirely satisfactory."

"It seemed to me," Mr. McClellan said, "and I want to be absolutely fair — it seemed to me that if the purpose of it was to find out of any involvement of the C.I.A. or any adverse results to it by reason of continuation of this investigation, they had Helms there and they could have asked him directly."

Mr. McClellan also questioned why, if the purpose of the meeting was "to get the two agencies together, Gray was not invited to be present so they could have them all there."

Senator Roman L. Hruska, Republican of Nebraska, said that Mr. Haldeman had told the subcommittee that Mr. Gray had not been invited because there could have been "high-level discussions" about secret C.I.A. affairs that Mr. Gray should not have known about.

Cuban Invasion Cited

Mr. Haldeman's testimony also brought out an additional reason for President Nixon's concern that C.I.A. operations might be jeopardized by the Watergate investigation. The former Presidential aide told the subcommittee, according to Senator McClellan, that C.I.A. activities related to the Bay of Pigs might be affected.

Senator McClellan and Senator Pastore said that Mr. Haldeman had not made clear how the F.B.I. investigation could have been related to the abortive C.I.A.-sponsored invasion of Cuba in 1962, although some of those who participated in the break-in of Democrat headquarters in the Watergate complex had also participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Mr. Pastore remarked afterward that he found the Bay of Pigs connection to the Watergate investigation "a little far-fetched."

Mr. Haldeman seemed to try to attribute any Watergate cover-up to John W. Dean 3d, former counsel to the President, who was dismissed on April 30, the day Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman resigned.

Mr. Haldeman said that Mr. Dean had first suggested the possibility of C.I.A. involvement in the Watergate burglary and that it was because of Mr. Dean's suggestion that the meeting was called with Mr. Helms and General Walters.

The McClellan subcommittee is investigating whether any pressure was exerted on the C.I.A. to cover up the Watergate case. Its work is distinct from that of the over-all Watergate investigation being conducted by the panel headed by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr.

Dispute Over Hunt

The conflict between Mr. Ehrlichman and General Cushman over who instructed that C.I.A. help should go to Hunt developed as follows:

Mr. Ehrlichman, in his sub-

committee testimony yesterday, produced copies of memorandums on the matter from General Cushman.

In the first one, dated Jan. 8, 1973, General Cushman said that he was not certain who had called him in July, 1971, to ask that aid be given to

Hunt. But the general went on to speculate that it might have been Mr. Ehrlichman.

No Names Mentioned

Mr. Ehrlichman said that he complained to General Cushman about the inclusion of his name in the memorandum, and that the general then wrote a

second one, dated Jan. 10, ... being necessarily contradictory.

General Cushman, who is now commandant of the Marine Corps, said at a news conference at Marine headquarters that he did not regard his position and Mr. Ehrlichman's "as

But he then said that he was asked last December by Federal prosecutors in the Watergate case to provide a memorandum on how it happened that the C.I.A. gave equipment to Hunt.

denies Cover-up Role; Co-



Associated Press
Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr. at news session yesterday