

Ehrlichman Again Says He Relied on Dean Investigation

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LOS ANGELES, June 8— Former White House domestic affairs adviser John D. Ehrlichman reiterated today that he was relying on the veracity of presidential counsel John W. Dean III in reporting to the President during the post-Watergate period that no administration official was involved in illegalities.

"We had repeated assurances [from Dean]," Ehrlichman told a press conference here. "It was not until February of this year that we were given any reason for even the beginning fibrillations of a doubt about those assurances."

Ehrlichman met the press after testifying for two hours before a Los Angeles County grand jury investigating the September, 1971, burglary of offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist by a White House-assigned team. He was followed before the grand jury by Charles Colson, former special counsel to the President. Colson would say only that he had answered all the grand jury's questions.

Ehrlichman, who seemed tense and testy, would not discuss his testimony regarding the burglary, but did answer two or three questions regarding the relationship with Dean, who was fired as counsel to the President. He then stalked out with reporters shouting questions after him.

Ehrlichman said that Dean had conducted "an intensive investigation" of the Watergate affair during the summer of 1972 and passed the information on to himself and then-White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman. Ehrlichman acknowledged that he and Haldeman were the "conduits" to the President during that period.

Ehrlichman said Dean had access to a great deal of information, including the results of "one of the most intensive FBI investigations in the history of the country." He added that the "fruits" of Dean's investigations and

conclusions "were faithfully imparted to the President."

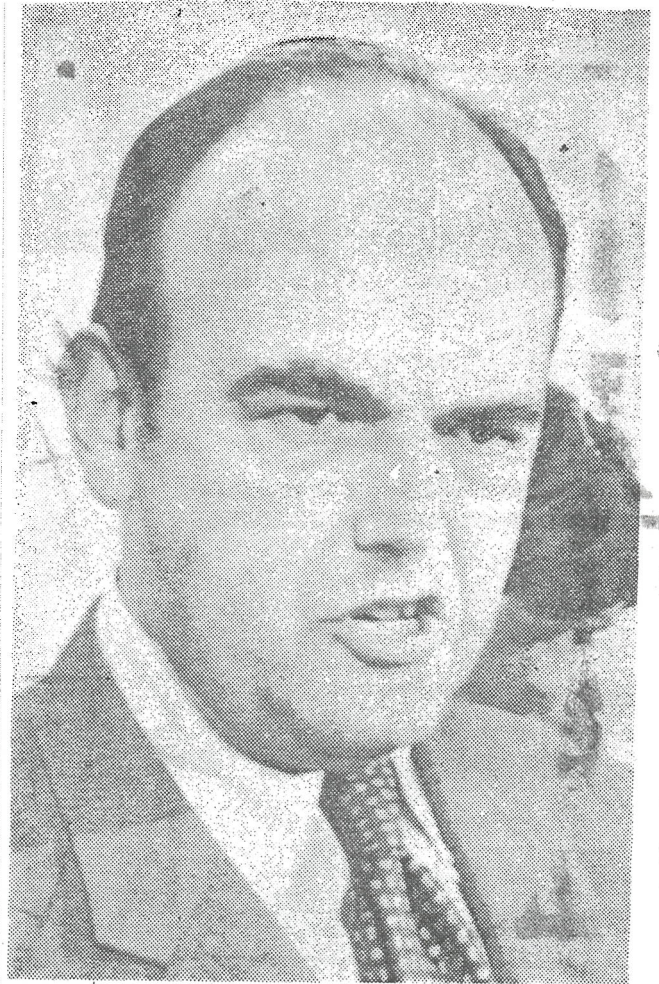
Ehrlichman's answers differed, at least in emphasis, with a deposition by Haldeman released Thursday in a civil suit growing out of Watergate.

Haldeman said that Dean's reports were more or less a casual function of his position as counsel to the President and that Dean was never asked until March 20 of this year to make a formal investigation of the Watergate incident.

Ehrlichman said today, however, that there had been "a lot of confusion" about whether the earlier reports from Dean were written or oral. He said reports needn't be "typewritten, double-spaced and on embossed paper" but can be "a series of assurances given orally."

With regard to the burglary, Ehrlichman said he had answered all questions put to him before the grand jury "to the best of my ability." Ehrlichman has been identified as the man who helped form the White House secret "plumbers" unit which hatched the scheme to invade the Beverly Hills office of Dr. Lewis Fielding in search of private information about Daniel Ellsberg, who had been indicted for leaking the Pentagon papers.

Ehrlichman said in an earlier affidavit that he found out about the burglary only after it happened and told the plumbers team "not to do it again."



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Ehrlichman emphasizes point to newsmen after testifying.

In another development, Los Angeles District Attorney Joseph Busch said he would initiate action Monday to subpoena Egil (Bud) Krogh, who has refused to appear voluntarily. Krogh had direct charge of the plumbers unit and has acknowledged that he approved plans for the burglary. Busch said the grand jury hearing will be postponed for more than a week while the complex interstate subpoena process is completed.