

# Haldeman 'Knew of Bug Data'

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

John W. Dean III has said that he was told by an aide to H. R. Haldeman that Haldeman ordered pertinent documents destroyed right after the Watergate burglary, according to the report of a U.S. Senator who interviewed Dean last month.

The documents were said to indicate that Haldeman knew of "actual data" obtained from the wiretap of the Democratic National Committee's headquarters.

The senator, Lowell P. Weicker Jr., questioned Dean at length on May 3, three days after Dean was dismissed as White House counsel.

## SENATOR

Weicker, a Connecticut Republican who is a member of the Senate Watergate Committee, has acknowledged that he interviewed Dean but has repeatedly refused to make public what was said in the interview.

(Yesterday, however, when asked about the New York Times report, Weicker said, "I cannot disavow the story." Weicker added that further details of his report will be made available if the committee gives its approval.)

The report was made available to the New York Times, without Weicker's knowledge, by a person with access to some committee records.

## DISMISSAL

In the interview, Dean was reported to have indicated to Weicker that John N. Mitchell was dismissed as President Nixon's campaign director last summer. Mitchell has repeatedly maintained that he resigned voluntarily.

On the Haldeman matter,

Dean was reported to have said that Gordon C. Strachan, Haldeman's chief assistant at the time of the Watergate burglary June 17, 1972, had told Dean of the Haldeman files.

According to Weicker's report, the day after the burglary, "Strachan told Dean that he had been ordered by Haldeman to destroy documents which indicated that Haldeman had awareness of actual data received from the wiretap at the Democratic National Committee."

The report, quoting Dean,

Back Page Col. 6

## From Page 1

goes on to say that "Strachan destroyed these documents in his office on the 17th or 18th of June."

Haldeman was the White House chief of staff and President Nixon's closest aide until he resigned April 30.

## WIRETAPS

In a deposition taken last month, Haldeman acknowledged that reports had reached his office that could possibly have been logs of the wiretap on the Democratic headquarters. Haldeman said that he had not personally seen the reports, however, and did not know for certain what they contained.

Haldeman did not say that he had ordered any documents destroyed.

Weicker's report says that Dean also contended that within a week of the Watergate burglary he advised Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, the President's other top adviser to dismiss Mitchell, the campaign director, and Jeb S. Magruder, his top aide.

## DECISION

Weicker reported that Dean had told him that the decision had been made to dismiss Mitchell but to retain Magruder.

Dean apparently did not specify who allegedly ordered the ouster of Mitchell.

This is the first indication that Mitchell did not resign voluntarily on July 11. He was replaced by Clark MacGregor and Magruder stayed on as MacGregor's deputy.