

President's View

A Nixon-Dean Talks' Summary

Washington

Senate investigators have been given a White House summary of President Nixon's many contacts with counselor John W. Dean III that describes them as a series of attempts to keep the Watergate truth from the President, it was reported yesterday.

Reporter Paul Duke of NBC news described the summary as acknowledging 36 meetings between Dean and Mr. Nixon between late February and late April this year, some of them brief and others lasting for hours. NBC said the summary indicated the two met alone at times and on other occasions one or more other presidential aides were present.

NBC said the Senate Watergate investigating committee, headed by Senator Sam Ervin, (Dem-N.C.) was given a document listing the meetings and the additional White House summary interpreting the role of the meetings in Watergate developments— from Mr. Nixon's viewpoint.

LOGS

It was not immediately clear whether the actual White House logs of the meetings had been turned over to the panel. A few days ago the White House acknowledged the existence of such logs but said they would not be given the committee. However the White House backed down when the committee threatened to subpoena the records.

According to the White House summary of the meetings, Dean repeatedly told Mr. Nixon in February and early March that no one at the White House was involved in the burglary of democratic national headquarters in the Watergate complex last June or in associated crimes.

But in mid-March, NBC quoted the summary as saying, Dean at length acknowledged Gordon Strachan, an aide to then White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman, possibly had been involved.

OTHERS

NBC's report of the summary said that four days later, after Nixon had told Dean the results of Dean's investigation of the matter should be made public, Dean on March 21 told the President that besides Strachan, Haldeman, former attorney general and Nixon campaign chairman John N. Mitchell, and Jeb S. Magruder, deputy re-election campaign director, also probably knew of the Watergate operation.

At another meeting, NBC said in its report on the White House summary, Dean told Mr. Nixon that convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howar Hunt Jr. was demanding money to keep quiet and might have to be paid a million dollars. Mr. Nixon reportedly commented that there was no indication Hunt would be satisfied with that and that such a payoff would not work because the truth would come out anyway.

RECESS

The White House summary surfaced during a week's recess in the Ervin hearings, with Dean — a star witness — due to testify next week, reportedly with testimony and documents damaging to Nixon's claim of non-involvement in the Watergate crimes.

During the recess, Nixon loyalists and current White House aides have sought to tarnish Dean's image, reportedly in hopes of reducing the credibility of his forthcoming testimony.

United Press