

Dean Testifies That  
Nixon Was Involved  
In Coverup  
**Day-Long**  
**Watergate**  
**Statement**

Washington

John W. Dean III, asserting that President Nixon had failed to heed a warning that the Watergate case was "a cancer growing on the Presidency," testified yesterday that the President had taken part in the Watergate coverup for as long as eight months.

Dean, the dismissed White House legal counsel, told the Senate's investigating committee that he still believes Mr. Nixon "did not realize or appreciate at any time the implications of his involvement."

Nonetheless, in a day-long, matter-of-fact recitation of Dean's own involvement in the Watergate coverup, and in 47 documents that he submitted to the Senate committee, Dean described a widespread effort to mask the extent of the conspiracy that he said spread from the White House staff, to the Committee for the re-election of the President, to the Department of Justice and, ultimately, to the oval office of the White House.

His head bowed as he read calmly through a 245-page prepared account, Dean publicly detailed for the first time the following allegations of Mr. Nixon's personal involvement:

- The President had complimented him last September for having helped to assure that the government's investigation of the Watergate case "had stopped with (G. Gordon) Liddy," one of the convicted Watergate conspirators.

- In February, the President asked him to report directly on what he learned of the continuing investigations because H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, the two senior domestic aides to the President, "were principals in the mat-

ter," and also because meeting with Dean was taking up too much of their time.

- The President had dis-

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cussed with him on March 13 the demands by Watergate conspirators for large sums of money to maintain their silence and that when Dean told the President it could cost more than \$1 million, Mr. Nixon "told me that was no problem."

- The President had told him, Dean said, of discussions early this year with Ehrlichman and with

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Charles W. Colson, a former special counsel to the President, about a promise to grant executive clemency to E. Howard Hunt, another of the Watergate defendants.

- The President directed that the administration try to curtail the Senate investigation and block an attempted inquiry into Watergate by the House Banking and Commerce Committee last September. The President also ordered aides to make sure that L. Patrick Gray III, the former acting director of the FBI, would be "pulled up short" in his testimony last spring before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

- At one point, in a meeting on March 21, Dean said, the President discussed with his aides the possibility that the coverup might be kept secret if John N. Mitchell, the former attorney general and director of the Nixon re-election campaign, could be persuaded to publicly assume responsibility for the Watergate burglary and wiretapping a year ago.

- After he (Dean) had resolved to try to "end this mess without mortally wounding the President" by giving information to government prosecutors, the President apparently tape-recorded an April 15 meeting with Dean and asked a number of "leading questions" in

an effort to create a record that would "protect himself," Dean said.

- On his way out of that meeting Dean said, "I told the President that I hoped my going to the prosecutors and telling the truth would not result in the impeachment of the President. He jokingly said, 'I certainly hope so also,' and he said that it would be handled properly."

- Dean said that the President tried to get him, in a "tense confrontation" on April 16, to sign two letters of resignation that tended to incriminate him, but that he had "looked the President squarely in the eyes and told him I would not sign the letters" or become a "White House scapegoat."

**SCHEDULE**

Dean's recital to the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities consumed more than six hours. Members of the committee will interrogate him today and tomorrow and they plan to call Mitchell as the next witness on Thursday.

Dean did not provide any first-hand information to link the President to prior knowledge of the Watergate burglary and the arrests of five men inside the Democratic national committee offices. But he told, in a fourth-hand account, of having been advised in February that Haldeman had "cleared" with the President Liddy's \$250,000 master plan to gather information on the Democratic opposition in the 1972 campaign.

Furthermore, Dean said that he was told last November 15 by Haldeman and Ehrlichman that Mr. Nixon had decided that he must obtain the resignation of Dwight Chapin, the former White House appointments secretary, because of Chapin's involvement with Donald H. Segretti, the alleged director of a broad campaign of sabotage of Democratic presidential candidates.

The former White House counsel said that another Nixon aide, Egil Krogh Jr., told him on March 29 that the authority for a September, 1971, burglary of the office of a psychiatrist treating Daniel Ellsberg had come "right out of the Oval Office."

**FIRST**

Dean's account was the first before the Senate committee to accuse Mr. Nixon categorically of involvement in the coverup. He sat alone at the witness table — his

wife, Maureen, and his lawyers seated one row behind him — to dramatize what he had said last week was the loneliness of his plight in making accusations about the President.

He acknowledged to the committee — before which he appeared only after obtaining a grant of partial immunity from prosecution — that he had been involved himself in "obstructing justice," arranging for "perjured testimony" and in making personal use of \$4850 of cash campaign funds.

As he began his statement Dean said that he hoped that when all the facts are known "the President is forgiven." He apologized for having to describe illegal acts of "friends" and of individuals he said he admired, but he went on to recount, calmly, without passion and in narrative form, the involvement of several score government and campaign officials in the Watergate case.

In a virtual catalog of allegations, Dean recited accusations about widespread participation in the coverup.

He said that within three days after the Watergate arrests, Herbert W. Kalmbach, formerly Mr. Nixon's personal lawyer, had consented to arrange to gather "silence money" to keep the Watergate trial defendants from talking. Dean described his own contacts with Kalmbach to arrange the payoffs, saying that he had been acting at the direction of Mitchell, with the "approval" of Haldeman and Ehrlichman.

Dean said the White House congressional relations staff had helped to prevail upon members of the House Banking and Currency Committee last year to vote against subpoenas of key of-

ficials in the White House and on the re-election committee.

New York Times



With his wife, Maureen, sitting behind him, John Dean began his testimony yesterday

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