

# Others Now Implicated in The Coverup

## Washington

At least three present or former White House staff members, in addition to those already linked to the Watergate scandal, were implicated in the case yesterday by John W. Dean III.

The former presidential counsel charged that, to varying degrees, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, Richard A. Moore, a special counsel to the President, and Wallace H. Johnson Jr., a former congressional liaison, took part in the coverup.

In all the months of testimony and newspaper reports on the case, none of those men had been named before Dean gave his account. None of them responded to requests for comment on Dean's testimony.

### AMBIGUOUS

Ziegler, the chief White House vehicle for deflecting press inquiries about the case of more than a year, is by far the best known of the three. But Dean's assertions regarding his role were somewhat ambiguous.

The former counsel said,

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for example, that Ziegler attended a meeting on Oct 15, 1972, to discuss a strategy for dealing with "cascading leaked stories" regarding the activities of Donald Segretti, a dirty-tricks operative in the Nixon re-election campaign.

"This session," Dean added, "was not unlike many other sessions that had preceded it and were to follow it in preparing Ziegler to meet the White House press corps. It would, however, take me another 200 pages to give that story."

### CHAPIN

Dean did not say specifically that Ziegler learned at the meeting the full details of Segretti's activities but, Dwight L. Chapin, who had hired Segretti, was also at the meeting. And the tenor of Dean's remarks suggested strongly that Segretti's role was to be minimized, as it in fact was at subsequent news briefings by Ziegler.

In the last week of October, for example, Ziegler said that no one at the White House had been involved in Segretti's activities "because espionage is something we don't condone and won't tolerate."

Similarly, Dean testified that he was told as early as Nov. 15, 1972, that Mr. Nixon had reluctantly decided that Chapin would have to leave the staff because of his links to Segretti. But when Chapin's departure was finally announced on

January 29, Ziegler gave a different version.

Chapin was leaving, the press secretary said, only because of a "fine" business opportunity and had had "every opportunity" to stay at the White House. A report to the contrary in the New York Times, Ziegler added, was "absolutely unfounded and untrue."

### MISLED

But Dean also indicated, in at least one instance, that Ziegler had been misled by other staff members.

Dean said that when he confronted John D. Ehrlichman with data he had gathered about wiretaps on the telephones of newsmen and White House staff members, Ehrlichman, then Mr. Nixon's top domestic affairs adviser, confirmed the existence of the taps. Then he asked Ehrlichman what Ziegler should say, because Time magazine was about to print the story.

"He said Ziegler should flatly deny it — period," Dean recalled. "I thanked him, called Mr. Ziegler and so advised him." Subsequently, Ziegler denied the story.

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