

## Ziegler

'Wasn't Told  
The Truth'

Washington

John W. Dean III told the Senate Watergate investigating committee yesterday that Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, did not know "the truth" when he repeatedly denied any White House involvement in the burgeoning scandal and the attempted cover-up.

But Dean did not thereby absolve Ziegler of any role in the coverup as President Nixon did on April 30 when he announced the dismissal of Dean and the resignations of his two top assistants, John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman.

Mr. Nixon said then that "the comments made by my press secretary in my behalf were based on the information provided to us at the time."

Dean said yesterday that "on countless occasions" Ziegler had come to him and asked to be briefed on "the facts" of various unfolding situations that he knew the reporters would grill him on. But, Dean testified, he always told Ziegler he couldn't be given the facts because he was under "very specific instructions" from Ehrlichman "not to brief Ziegler."

Thereupon, Dean said, Ziegler would follow the

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guidance given him by Dean, Haldeman or Ehrlichman, "take an offensive approach" in his news conference, and "hedge and bob and weave" but "without actually going out and lying on a given matter."

Thus, Dean suggested, Ziegler, while ignorant of the facts most of the time and "quite annoyed" because he was denied them, nevertheless acquiesced in his assigned role in the coverup.

Dean also said, under further questioning by Fred D. Thompson, the chief minority counsel of the committee, that he knew of "no impropriety" upon the part of Henry E. Petersen. As assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division, Petersen was in charge of the Justice Department's investigation of the Watergate case until the appointment of special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

## TESTIMONY

The basis for Thompson's question about any impropriety in Petersen's conduct of the investigation was Dean's testimony Monday that Petersen had passed on to the White House information from grand jury testimony.

Furthermore, Dean said Monday that Petersen had arranged for five White House aides to be questioned by Federal prosecutors in an office outside the presence of the grand jury.

After being interviewed by the government lawyers in the presence of their own attorney — who are not permitted to attend their clients in the grand jury room — these White House officials, Dean said, were permitted to swear out statements that were later given to the grand jury in lieu of direct testimony. Thus, the 23 grand jury members were prevented from asking their own questions of the five witnesses.

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