

# WHITE HOUSE CHARGES DEAN LED COVER-UP; MITCHELL'S EX-AIDE LA RUE PLEADS GUILTY; ADMINISTRATION 'POLITICAL ENEMIES' LISTED

## SIRICA GETS PLEA

### Delays Sentencing on Charge of Conspiring to Obstruct Justice

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 27 —

Frederick C. LaRue, special assistant to John N. Mitchell at the Committee for the Re-election of the President, pleaded guilty today to charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

He has agreed to cooperate with the special prosecution

Cox letter, LaRue statement will be found on Page 37.

force investigating the break-in at Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972, and testify as a Government witness at possible future trials.

The plea was entered before Chief Justice John J. Sirica in United States District Court. Judge Sirica delayed sentence until after the disposition of any new indictments.

#### The Southern Strategy

LaRue, a once-wealthy Mississippi oilman who traveled in the highest circle of President Nixon's re-election campaign and was involved in Mr. Nixon's Southern strategy to break the Democratic party's hold on the Deep South, read a short statement to the court.

He said he attended a meeting in late March, 1972, at which the Watergate bugging was discussed, but "I recommended against the plan" and "it was not approved in my presence."

After the Watergate burglars were arrested inside Democratic headquarters, "my knowledge and involvement increased," he said.

"I learned from Mr. Gordon Liddy on June 20 that he, an official of the committee, had, in fact, been involved in this fiasco."

LaRue said that he sat in on

Continued on Page 37, Column 8

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

meetings with Jeb Stuart Magruder and others when they discussed the "protective" story Mr. Magruder would tell Federal investigators.

"I joined in that cover-up, at least by acquiescence," he said.

Also, LaRue said, he received and distributed cash that went to the Watergate defendants and their lawyers. James W. McCord Jr., convicted in the first trial, has said those payments were made so that all seven defendants in that trial would plead guilty and remain silent.

John W. Dean 3d, President Nixon's former counsel, has said demands for those payments increased to the point of blackmail with one of the defendants, E. Howard Hunt Jr.

In delaying sentencing, Judge Sirica stated that the special prosecutor had indicated that further indictments were "forthcoming in what we call the Watergate matter."

He said that such indictments would presumably include "references to activities in which Mr. LaRue has been involved."

#### Delay Agreed Upon

Both sides agreed to the delay "until after the disposition of those new indictments," as Judge Sirica put it.

LaRue could face as much as five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

He was released without bail but is to stay in the Washington area except for visits to his Jackson, Miss., home or to New York, where another aspect of the Watergate scandal is under investigation.

LaRue waived his right to go before a grand jury to weigh an indictment against him and instead pleaded guilty to information filed with the court by the special prosecutor.

The indictment cited seven "overt acts of conspiracy." These involved the following:

¶At a meeting June 19, two days after the Watergate burglary, he met with "others unnamed" and they agreed to destroy "certain incriminating records" relating to the break-in. James F. Neal of the special prosecutor's office identified these as wiretapping logs and summary sheets.

¶On July 19, he delivered "a sum of money" to Herbert M. Kalmbach at the Old Executive Office Building. Mr. Kalmbach was then President Nixon's personal lawyer and one of his chief fund-raisers.

¶He delivered another unspecified sum of money to Mr. Kalmbach on July 26.

¶Prior to Aug. 16, 1972, he met with "others unnamed" at the re-election headquarters, "where Jeb S. Magruder's false, misleading and deceptive statement, previously made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was further discussed."

¶On Aug. 16, Mr. Magruder falsely testified, as planned, before the grand jury investigating the case.

¶On Sept. 19, 1972, LaRue received \$20,000 in cash.

¶On Dec. 1, he received \$280,000, again in currency.

Last June 12, Archibald Cox, the special Watergate prosecutor, had written Fred M. Vinson Jr., LaRue's lawyer, arranging for the plea. In the letter, Mr. Cox said that all other charges surrounding the Watergate incident and the cover-up relating to LaRue would be dropped, including possible violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act and the Corrupt Practices Act.

#### 'Complete Cooperation'

"This understanding," Mr. Cox wrote, "is predicated on Mr. LaRue's complete cooperation with the Government, including the immediate, full and truthful disclosure of all information in his possession."

Mr. Cox said this would mean testifying at trials or in other cases. He said that the extent of LaRue's cooperation "will be brought to the court's attention before sentencing."

The new special prosecutor, like the prosecution team that handled the first Watergate trial, is continuing the practice of offering a single plea to a single charge for those under investigation who agree to cooperate.

Mr. Magruder has been made such an offer and, sources in the Justice Department have confirmed, accepted it, though no court action has been taken on his case.

Mr. Kalmbach is known to be cooperating with the prosecutors, but it is unclear whether he has struck a similar deal.

Mr. Dean has refused such a proposal.

The public presentation of LaRue's case today came on the eve of the scheduled appearance of Mr. Mitchell before the Senate Watergate committee — an appearance that may be postponed until the week of July 17. Mr. Mitchell, long a close friend and political associate of Mr. Nixon, ran his 1968 Presidential campaign and the 1972 campaign until shortly after Watergate, when he resigned.

LaRue's lawyer, Mr. Vinson, said his client came forward "this spring" voluntarily to cooperate with the prosecution.