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AIDES DENY NIXON  
APPROVED CHARGE

They Assert Memo on Dean  
Given to Panel Is Not the  
White House Position

By JOHN HERBERS

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., June 28—Spokesmen for President Nixon attempted today to dissociate the President from any personal involvement in or approval of the statement before the Watergate committee charging that John W. Dean 3d was the chief architect of the White House cover-up.

"It is not the President's position, it is not the White House position," the deputy press secretary, Gerald L. Warren, said of the statement submitted to the committee yesterday by J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., special counsel to the President on Watergate matters.

The statement, in the form of questions and allegations that Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii put to Mr. Dean as a White House paper, did not budge the former White House counsel in his insistence that he had only carried out orders from his superiors, including the President, in his involvement in the complex of political

Continued on Page 27, Column 4

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

espionage and cover-up attempts.

In a related matter, Mr. Warren made it clear that President Nixon would accept neither an invitation nor a subpoena to go before the Senate committee and tell his version of what happened.

"We feel the President should not testify," Mr. Warren said, reiterating a position that the President had taken before he was implicated in the cover-up. "As for a subpoena, we feel that would be constitutionally inappropriate."

The Buzhardt statement was surrounded by considerable confusion as to whether it represented the President's latest position in the Watergate matter. That position has changed as the Watergate case has unfolded—from one of absolutely no White House involvement to an acknowledgment on May 22 that some of Mr. Nixon's aides were deeply involved but that any cover-up activity on his part was innocently related to protecting national security matters.

issued a statement from Mr. Buzhardt in Washington in which he said that the paper before the committee was "an hypothesis prepared as a basis for cross-examination, from available statements of other witnesses in the several investigative forums, including depositions in civil suits, state-

ments to investigators and prior testimony to the Ervin committee."

"This memorandum was provided to the committee to contribute to their process of cross-examination," he continued. "The document does not represent a White House position. It was not reviewed by the President. It was based exclusively on the statements of witnesses. Its sole purpose was to facilitate examination of Mr. Dean as to matters on which others, as well as Mr. Dean, testified or made statements to the investigative bodies or the press."

In a news briefing, Mr. Warren was asked who was making the charges contained in the statement that Mr. Dean "perhaps unwittingly" was "the principal author of the political and constitutional crisis that

Watergate now epitomizes."

Mr. Warren said that Mr. Buzhardt, in submitting the statement, was acting under the general authority granted to him by the President, but he repeated several times that the statement was "not reviewed nor discussed with the President."

"The statement was a product of the White House counsel's office, and that is where the matter rests," he said.

If the statement was not the President's position, Mr. Warren was asked, what is the President's position?

"We are not commenting on the testimony or the evidence" before the committee, Mr. Warren said, pointing out, as he had previously this week, that Mr. Nixon still stood on his May 22 statement. Although

that statement, of his own innocence, was contradicted by Mr. Dean, it did not charge Mr. Dean, as did the Buzhardt statement, with directing the cover-up.

It was not clear from any of the remarks today on whose initiative the Buzhardt statement and questions had been sent to the Senate committee.

While controversy over the statement went on, Mr. Nixon was depicted by Mr. Warren as working in the secluded Western White House on matters not connected with Watergate. On the fourth day of Mr. Dean's testimony, he said, the President had not seen or heard any of the Senate proceedings and continued to rely on summaries prepared by assistants.