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Richard Moore: 'facts . . . did not reach the President,'  
Nixon Aide Challenges Dean Story

## Moore: President Was Kept in Dark

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John W. Dean III's testimony implicating President Nixon in the Watergate cover-up was challenged yesterday before the investigating Senate committee by White House special counsel Richard A. Moore.

In a prepared account differing from Dean's far more in tone and interpretation than in fact, Moore said that on the basis of his conversations with both Dean and Mr. Nixon earlier this year it is his "deep conviction . . . that the critical facts about the Watergate did not reach the President" until Dean supplied them to him last March 21.

Dean has testified that Mr. Nixon knew on March 13 of requests for hush money and a promise of executive clemency.

Under sharp and often hostile questioning by assist-

ant majority counsel Terry Lenzner after he delivered his statement, Moore appeared nervous and shaken. He was frequently at a loss for additional details sought by Lenzner about specific meetings he attended over the last year with Mr. Nixon and high-ranking members of the White House staff.

In a detailed account of the period from early February, when the Senate select Watergate committee was formed, until late April, Moore described a series of meetings between himself, Dean and the President culminating March 21 — when he said Dean met with Mr. Nixon and "let it all out."

March 21 is the date the President has said publicly "serious charges" concerning

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## MOORE, From A1

the Watergate affair came to his attention and caused him to order a new investigation of the case.

Dean told the Senate committee that on March 13 he met with the President and told him the seven defendants in the Watergate break-in were demanding money from the White House. Dean said the President told him one of them, E. Howard Hunt Jr., had been promised executive clemency.

Moore's account says that after he and Dean met with the President on March 20, he asked Dean if he had ever told Mr. Nixon what he knew about Watergate. "Dean replied that he had not," Moore said, "and I asked whether anyone else had. Dean said he didn't think so."

At that point, Moore recalled, he told Dean the President "simply has to have all the facts" and that he should be told everything. Dean agreed, he said, and went to see the President the next morning to do so.

Dean, in his testimony, said that in their March 20 conversation he "did not discuss with Moore the fact that I had discussed money and clemency with the President earlier, but I told him that I really didn't think the President understood all of the facts involved in the Watergate and the implication of those facts."

Moore, a white-haired lawyer of 59 who has been described both by himself and by others as having a sort of paternal relationship with younger members of the White House staff, never sought to challenge Dean's motives for his testimony—only his recollection.

"The good-faith recollections of one party to a conversation often differ from those of the other," he noted mildly, avoiding the kind of direct criticism of Dean that has come both from some members of the current White House and others implicated in the scandal.

Moore also offered a somewhat different version than did Dean about a Feb. 10 meeting in California with former presidential assist-

ants H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman to plan a strategy for dealing with the newly formed Senate committee.

As Dean told it, Ehrlichman told Moore—who had worked as a special assistant to former Attorney General John N. Mitchell—about the Watergate defendants' demands for money, and that he should ask Mitchell to raise some of it.

"Ehrlichman told Mr. Moore—who was hearing all this for the first time—that he should go to Mitchell" and tell him it was his "responsibility to raise the necessary funds," Dean testified. He said he warned Moore that he shouldn't get involved in the matter.

As Moore recounted the incident, however, it was Dean who brought up the question of money "in a sort of by-the-way reference," apparently speaking of legal defense funds of the defendants. "Someone said 'Isn't that something John Mitchell might handle with his rich New York friends'" Moore recalled.

He said it was suggested he mention it to Mitchell, and so when he saw the former Attorney General in New York soon after he told him "his White House friends had nominated him for the honor of being a fund-raiser." Mitchell said, "Tell them to get lost," or words to that effect, Moore said.

After Moore delivered his prepared statement, he was vigorously quizzed by Lenzner, the assistant to majority counsel Samuel Dash. Lenzner, checking White House logbooks, asked Moore repeatedly about specific meetings he had attended in 1972 and early 1973.

Moore was unable to respond in detail, and began stammering slightly as he answered.

At one point, asked by Lenzner about an apparent contradiction between an answer he had just given and one he had given earlier that afternoon in a closed-door session with the committee staff, Moore replied that "I'll let my answer stand—whatever it was."

Under questioning by Lenzner, Moore said that Dean—whom he described as "often cryptic and guarded"—mentioned to him last April 14 that there might have been a connection between Ehrlichman and the Pentagon Papers case involving Daniel Ellsberg.

Dean did not mention, however, the 1971 break-in by convicted Watergate conspirators Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy at the Los Angeles offices of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Moore said.

On the 19th of April, Moore said, he told the President about his conversation with Dean. He said Mr. Nixon told him that the White House had done some investigation of its own in the Ellsberg case rather than leave it to the FBI because former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was friendly with Ellsberg's father-in-law.

The break-in by Hunt and Liddy, eventually a factor in the dismissal of charges in the Ellsberg case, first became public knowledge on April 27 when the judge in the trial released a memo from Watergate prosecutor Earl J. Silbert to Assistant U.S. Attorney General Henry E. Petersen.

Silbert's memo said that on April 15, he had been informed of the Hunt-Liddy burglary. The two were seeking psychiatric files on Ellsberg, which the prosecution said they did not find. Lenzner asked Moore when he first learned of the Ellsberg break-in, but Moore said he couldn't remember the exact date.

Moore, under questioning, said he was involved in preparing the White House's response to news stories linking former White House aide Dwight Chapin to Donald H. Segretti—a young lawyer later identified as having headed a program of political sabotage on behalf of the Republican presidential campaign in 1972.

He said he was asked by Ehrlichman—whom, he confessed on several occasions, he often confused with Haldeman—to see if there was any White House connection with Segretti.

Moore appeared at the hearing yesterday with his lawyer, Herbert J. Miller. In the audience were Moore's brother John, the U.S. ambassador to Ireland, and close friend Lloyd Cutler, a Washington attorney.

Moore, an attorney and former television executive, said yesterday that he "became a friend and supporter of Richard Nixon" in California "and advised on the television aspects of his 1962 campaign."

In 1968, Moore said, he accompanied Mr. Nixon on the campaign trail and "I was then invited to join the administration." Moore took a post as special assistant to then-Attorney General Mitchell in April, 1970, and "assisted him (Mitchell) primarily in the preparation of speeches, statements and position papers on current public issues within the department's responsibilities."

One year later, Moore was appointed special counsel to the President. Moore yesterday described his White House duties as mainly involving assisting "the President and his staff in communicating their positions in the most convincing manner to the general public."

Until Dean's testimony, two weeks ago, Moore's name had not been linked in any way to the Watergate affair.

Moore himself told the committee that he is a minor White House figure who serves "primarily as an extra hand—as a source of white-haired advice and experience—whenever the President or the younger men with line responsibility seek my help."

Dean, one of those younger men who sought Moore's advice, told the Watergate committee that Moore "to me is a wonderful man, and I often went to him for counsel. He is an older man, and I respected his judgment very much. . . . I had never told Dick Moore everything I knew (about Watergate) but I had given him enough knowledge so that he could see the breadth of the problem."

Moore, 59, is a native of Albany, N.Y., and a graduate of Yale University Law School in 1939. Before joining the administration, he practiced law in New York and later California, served in the Army in World War II, and was a television executive between 1946 and 1962. Between 1962 and 1970, he was a principal in communications and cable television enterprise in Southern California.

He and his wife maintain residences in Pasadena and the District. They have five children.

Moore returns for further testimony before the Watergate committee today.