

A Nixon Adviser Denies Any Role

Washington

Richard A. Moore, a special counsel to President Nixon, yesterday completed testimony before the Senate Watergate committee that extended over three days.

Moore was questioned closely by Senator Joseph P. Montoya (Dem-N.M.) on his visit with former attorney general and campaign director John N. Mitchell last February.

Moore said he was sent by White House aides H. R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and John Dean III to ask Mitchell to raise money—but that he didn't know it was to pay off the Watergate defendants.

"As a lawyer, can you conceive any person going to see another person and ask that person, Please raise the money, I don't know what it's for?" Montoya asked.

"I certainly can, because that's what happened, senator," Moore replied.

Montoya: "Would this be one of the reasons why you can't remember so well, Mr. Moore, that if you would admit that you did ask Mr. Mitchell to try to get this funding for the silencing of the defendants and for the representation of the defendants, that you would be now involved in the cover-up?"

Moore: "No, sir. That is not true."

Montoya: "Because of your possible feeling and belief that you might become involved, is this one of the reasons why you hesitated to confront Mr. Mitchell with more specificity with respect to the fund raising?"

Moore: "First of all, you have assumed a fear there which I did not have."

The white-haired White House lawyer said Dean had told him that he related the entire Watergate coverup to the President on March 21.

After a year of rumor and hints, Moore said, Dean's talking to the President triggered new actions.

"He moved pretty judiciously and he moved pretty effectively," Moore said of the President. "I think the results speak for themselves and I think that is where it stands."

Associated Press