

Watergate Leaves a Trail of Scarred Lives

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 — The Watergate affair has left a trail of scarred and broken lives.

Beneath the surface, beneath the headlines, beneath the obvious political tragedy, are people—some bitter, some defiant, some hurt, some just scared.

For weeks, as talks of the break-in at the Democratic national headquarters and the subsequent cover-up unfolded before the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, they were actors in a nationally televised drama.

But they are not actors; they are people, and the human cost has been high.

In some ways, L. Patrick Gray 3d, who lost the Federal Bureau of Investigation directorship he wanted so badly, said it all last week to Senator Joseph M. Montoya—in Spanish.

'Hurt in My Heart'

"Yo tengo mucho dolor en mi corazón ahora," the former acting chief of the F.B.I. said.

"I have a lot of hurt in my heart at this time," the New Mexico Democrat translated for the audience at the Watergate hearings in the third-floor caucus room of the Old Senate Office Building.

"Si," Mr. Gray concurred, his lined face under the whitening crew cut bearing witness to the pain he said was his.

"I said early in the game," he went on, "that I thought that Watergate would prove to be a spreading stain that would tarnish everyone with whom it came in contact, and I am no exception."

If Mr. Gray, a retired Navy captain, a submariner with 27 years of service who worked his way through a number of bureaucratic posts to his nomination to head the F.B.I., is no exception, neither are many others who were caught even on the periphery of the growing web of Watergate.

Careers Cut Short

Dozens have become entangled in that web. Certainly more will be as the Senate hearings resume next month and as various Federal grand jury investigations continue down the byways that have led from Watergate.

Promising young careers have been cut short. Hard-won older reputations have been soiled. Some face the threat of prison; others, disbarment. Jobs are hard to come by. Attorneys' fees are high. Six men are in jail, one freed on bond. The wife of one is dead.

Even a few suffice to show the deep and perhaps indelible nature of the "spreading stain."

Embittered and Alone

Among the old hands, John N. Mitchell, now nearing his 60th birthday, has fallen perhaps the farthest from power.

The former Attorney General and head of the Committee for the Re-election of the President is under indictment in New York on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice in the case of Robert L. Vesco, the financier who made a \$200,000 donation to the Nixon campaign while under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Once a confidant of Mr. Nixon, Mr. Mitchell is reported by those who know him to be embittered and alone, all but ostracized by old friends.

He is not working, except in his own defense, having removed himself from his New York law firm, Mudge Rose Guthrie & Alexander. And some who say they know insist that what wealth he may have had has been derived principally from salary, putting him in a somewhat precarious financial position from such drains as lawyers' fees and the upkeep of his Fifth Avenue apartment.

Before the Senate committee, he spoke scornfully of "White House horrors" perpetrated by

those who worked for the President, but he staunchly defended Mr. Nixon's innocence of knowledge of the Watergate break-in or cover-up.

Maurice H. Stans, the former Secretary of Commerce who headed the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, is, like Mr. Mitchell, under indictment in the Vesco case and facing possible action by the Watergate grand jury here.

H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, the former White House chief of staff and the assistant to the President for domestic affairs, respectively, have left the Washington area.

Mr. Haldeman, the crew-cut former advertising man who is reputed to have some independent wealth, is said to be living comfortably in a borrowed home at Newport Beach, Calif.

On the other hand, Mr. Ehrlichman, a lawyer, who like Mr. Haldeman has not worked since the two men resigned April 30, is reported to be in need of a job.

Both have protested their innocence in the Watergate scandal and in other questionable activities, but they, like dozens of others, must await the outcome of numerous investigations to see where indictments may fall.

In the meantime, Mr. Ehrlichman and his family have moved back to Seattle to lease the home they once owned on the shore of Lake Washington.

For the two old friends, if their testimony before the Watergate hearings was a measure, the most painful loss is their separation from the White House and the President they served and loved.

Another high-level casualty of Watergate was Richard G. Kleindienst, who succeeded Mr. Mitchell as Attorney General.

Mr. Kleindienst, who had served under Mr. Mitchell, liked his \$60,000-a-year job and was proud of it. He told the Senate committee that when he decided he could not continue and "maintain an appearance that justice is evenly and impartially administered" because of his relationship to some of those linked to the case "it was the saddest realization I have ever had to make in my life."

At the time he resigned—also on April 30—he said that he could live "about 30 days" without a job. Since then he has started practicing law in Washington, but he acknowledged that business could be better.

A Bright Young Man

But not all those touched by Watergate were at or near the peak of their careers.

The fourth man who resigned April 30 was the counsel to the President, John W. Dean 3d, and Mr. Nixon, who had regrets about the others, made no attempt to conceal his happiness at the departure of the 34-year-old lawyer.

Mr. Dean, who had been one of the bright young men at the White House, was granted immunity by the Senate committee and became its star witness against the President.

But for three and a half months now he has had no earned income. And should he be indicted and convicted, he could be disbarred well before mid-career.

Mr. Dean could not be reached, but Robert C. McCandless, his attorney and a former brother-in-law, said that the young lawyer had been "living out of reserve capital."

"He's a lawyer" Mr. McCandless said, "but he can't just hang out a shingle and practice."

Mr. Dean has had many offers, from publishers, newspapers, magazines and such television notables as Dick Cavett, Johnny Carson and Mike Wallace. But he cannot take them, Mr. McCandless explained, because while he was granted immunity by the Senate committee, anything he says about Watergate outside of that arena could be used against him in a future criminal prosecution.

"He's had a terrific amount

of offers from book people," Mr. McCandless said, "but obviously that goes right into the immunity question, so he can't negotiate."

According to Mr. McCandless, Mr. Dean has also had several offers from speakers' bureaus. "The college campuses want to see John," he added, but again because of the immunity problem Mr. Dean is unable to participate.

However, another Watergate figure, Jeb Stuart Magruder, who was a former White House aide and then Mr. Mitchell's deputy at the campaign committee, has scheduled a series of lectures.

In Mr. Dean's case, the Watergate web has even stretched beyond him to include his attorney, Mr. McCandless.

When Mr. McCandless agreed to handle Mr. Dean's case, his Washington law firm was subjected to pressure from other clients who had business pending before the Government, and he felt compelled to step aside. He has since left the firm and set up practice on his own.

'Ooooh God'

But it is not only the prominent figures in the Watergate affair whose lives have been touched.

Anthony T. Ulasewicz, the retired New York detective who did investigative work for the White House and who is a blunt-spoken product of the Lower East Side, made two appearances before the Senate committee and turned out to be a sort of comic favorite of the gallery, somewhat to his chagrin.

Although he has a police pension, he has not been able to find other work and is spending most of his time appearing before one investigative body or another.

"Ooooh God," he said on the telephone last week when asked about his present situation, "I guess that's your answer."

"I don't regret taking it," he went on. "I was there three and a half years [in the investigative job] and I never caused any embarrassment, not one iota. These guys [involved in the Watergate break-in] came in and in three and a half months they wrecked the whole country."

The Bit Players

But perhaps John J. Caulfield speaks best for all the bit players in the Watergate cast whose lives have been seriously affected by the continuing investigations.

Another retired New York policeman, Mr. Caulfield had worked on security matters in the White House for Mr. Ehrlichman before taking a similar position with the Committee for the Re-election of the President. After the campaign he took a job as assistant director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in the Treasury Department.

As soon as he testified in late May that he had met with James W. McCord, an old friend who was convicted in the Watergate break-in, during the trial to offer him executive clemency, he resigned from his job. He has not worked since.

"I know what's happened to me," he said when reached by telephone at his home in Fairfax, Va. "My life has just stopped."

"It's an agony to say the least. I lost my job. I've got three boys—all of them are going to college. I'd like to sit down and try to put it into words, what it feels like to have your life destroyed right in front of the whole nation."

And then he added sadly: "I wake up every morning and hope it was a bad dream—but it's not."