

Watergate Panel Meets Today; Status of Other Inquiries Listed

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The Senate's Watergate hearings, which resume tomorrow, are only one of many investigations and legal proceedings now under way concerning potential scandals that directly or tangentially involve President Nixon or his associates.

What follows is a report on the status of these inquiries.

Senate

Watergate Committee

E. Howard Hunt Jr., the witness before the committee tomorrow, is the last who will testify at length about the burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex 15 months ago and about the cover-up that followed. The committee will then turn its attention to the other two aspects of its inquiry: political "dirty tricks" and campaign finance abuses.

Hunt pleaded guilty last January to participating in the Watergate burglary and has been in jail ever since. For months, he kept silent about his role in the plot. But in recent weeks he has retained a new attorney, Sidney S. Sachs; has asked that he be allowed to change his plea to not guilty, and, according to committee staff members, has begun to cooperate with investigators. The investigators expect Hunt to provide interesting new information in the public hearings about the Watergate burglary and other matters.

Senators on the committee hope that the hearings can be completed by Nov. 1, although they may continue past that date if Congress is still in session. The committee is due to file a report containing its findings and recommendations for legislation by Feb. 28.

Agnew Investigation

A Federal grand jury in Baltimore is scheduled to begin this week hearing evidence into allegations that Vice President Agnew received bribes and kickbacks in return for political favors while he was Governor of Maryland and County Executive of Baltimore County.

Elliot L. Richardson, the Attorney General, has not ruled on the constitutional question of whether the Vice President could be indicted while he is still in office or whether he would have to be impeached and removed from office first.

There have been reports in the last week that Mr. Nixon hoped to force his Vice President from office and other reports that Mr. Agnew was considering resigning. Mr. Agnew has insisted that he is innocent of any wrongdoing and that it has no intention of resigning.

Watergate Prosecution

No further indictments are expected from the grand jury investigating the Watergate burglary and cover-up until there is a resolution of the question whether the special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, will have access to tape recordings of Mr. Nixon's conversations. The term of the grand jury is to expire in December, but Mr. Cox may ask Congress for legislation extending its life.

Regardless of how the matter of the tapes is settled, however, indictments are expected eventually against about a dozen top officials of the White House and the Nixon campaign.

Two figures involved in the Watergate cover-up have officially pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and have agreed to assist the prosecution. They are Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy campaign director, and Frederick C. LaRue, a key fundraiser. Two others are reportedly planning to plead guilty under similar circumstances. They are Herbert W. Kalmbach, once the President's personal attorney, and L. Patrick Gray 3d, former acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It will probably be several years before all the trials involving the Watergate prosecution are completed. Mr. Cox, who is 61 years old, has reportedly said that he plans to finish his career in his present job.

Ellsberg-I.T.T. Grand Jury

A second grand jury, impanelled at the request of Mr. Cox is investigating the burglary at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, the relationship between the Nixon Administration and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, illegal contributions during the 1972 election campaign and other matters. Indictments from this grand jury are expected soon.

One of those who has been told he is a "target" of the panel's inquiry is Charles W. Colson, a former special counsel to the President. He told the Senate Watergate Committee last Wednesday that he expected to know whether he would be indicted within five to 10 days.

Donald H. Segretti, who was hired by the Nixon campaign to run a political sabotage operation against candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination, has agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor charges and to help the prosecution.

Seven companies have conceded to the prosecution that they made illegal corporate



Associated Press

Melvin Laird before he appeared on "Face the Nation" yesterday.

contributions to the President's re-election campaign.

White House Tapes

The question of whether President Nixon must turn over the White House tapes to Mr. Cox seems headed inexorably toward the Supreme Court. Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court here has ruled that the tapes must be given to him for inspection. A decision by the appeals court is expected within a week or two, and it is likely that the case will reach the Supreme Court shortly after it reconvenes Oct. 1.

A similar suit to obtain the tapes by the Senate Watergate committee is proceeding more slowly than Mr. Cox's suit, but they may reach the Supreme Court together. President Nixon has asserted that he will abide by a High Court decision only if it is "definitive," but he has refused to define what he means by "definitive."

Los Angeles Prosecution

John D. Ehrlichman, Egil Krogh Jr., David R. Young and G. Gordon Liddy have been indicted by a California grand jury for conspiracy to commit burglary in connection with the September, 1971, break-in at the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, a psychiatrist who had treated Dr. Ellsberg. Mr. Ehrlichman has also been charged with perjury.

All four men have pleaded not guilty and say that their activities were within the scope of authority of the President. Unless there are unforeseen legal complications, the men will probably go to trial before the end of the year.

Seven Original Defendants

The five men who pleaded guilty last January at the original Watergate trial have asked Judge Sirica to vacate their pleas and to allow them to stand trial. Hunt said the Government had withheld information from him. The four Miami-area men argued that they had been pressured into pleading guilty. James W. McCord Jr., who was convicted at the trial, has asked for a new trial. Liddy is planning to appeal his conviction.

All but McCord are now in jail serving provisional maximum sentences. Judge Sirica has said that their sentences will depend on whether they cooperate with the authorities. All but Liddy are said to be cooperating.

Watergate Civil Suits

The Democratic National Committee has sued the Nixon campaign committee for \$6.4 million; Maurice H. Stans, the former Nixon finance chairman, has a \$5-million libel suit against the former Democratic

chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien; R. Spencer Oliver, a Democratic party official whose telephone was tapped in his Watergate office, has sued Nixon campaign officials, and Morton H. Halperin, a former consultant to the National Security Council, has sued a number of top White House officials who, he says, participated in tapping his telephone.

Trial dates have not been set for any of these suits. Some or all of them may be settled out of court.

Common Cause Suit

Under order from a Federal court, the Nixon campaign finance committee must release by Sept. 28 a list of its income and expenditures before April 7, 1972, when such disclosures became mandatory. The ruling was made in a suit filed against the committee by Common Cause, a public interest group.

Houston Grand Jury

A Federal grand jury in Houston has been investigating the \$100,000 campaign contribution of the Gulf Resources and Chemical Corporation. Part of the money allegedly went into the bank account of one of the Watergate conspirators, Bernard I. Baker. The grand jury recessed in midsummer and sent its findings to the Justice Department here for review.

Vesco Trial

Two former Cabinet officers, John N. Mitchell and Mr. Stans, have been charged with obstructing a major fraud investigation of Robert L. Vesco in return for his secret \$200,000 cash contribution to the Nixon re-election campaign. Their trial, originally scheduled for this month in New York City, has been postponed until at least the middle of October.

Mr. Vesco, a financier, was also indicted, but the Government has been unable to extradite him from Costa Rica. Harry L. Sears, former Republican leader of the New Jersey State Senate, has also been indicted in the case, but the prosecution has agreed to a separate trial for him after the Mitchell-Stans trial.

Nixon Property

The House Government Activities Subcommittee is planning hearings this fall into Government expenditures at President Nixon's private property in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente, Calif., and at property Mr. Nixon or his family uses that is owned by friends. The subcommittee also plans to explore the circumstances surrounding the transfer of some of the California

property to friends of the President.

Milk Suit

Ralph Nader and several consumer organizations have sued Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz, charging the Government with "improperly and unlawfully" increasing price support payments to milk producers in return for a \$422,100 campaign contribution. A key issue is whether the White House must release the tape recording of a March, 1971, meeting between Mr. Nixon and leaders of the dairy industry.

Oversight Committees

The Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees and a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee held hearings this year into attempts to involve the Central Intelligence Agency in the Watergate cover-up. The House subcommittee is now preparing a report of its findings and recommendations about how to keep the C.I.A. out of politics.

The Appropriations Committee turned its findings over to the Watergate committee. The Senate Armed Services Committee is planning further hearings on the C.I.A. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is studying wiretapping done for national security reasons.

C. Arnholt Smith

Mr. Smith, a multimillionaire California entrepreneur, who is one of Mr. Nixon's closest personal and political associates, is under intense scrutiny by Federal investigators, including those of the F.B.I., the Internal Revenue Service and the Securities and Exchange Commission, who are interested in his alleged dealings with organized crime figures. A grand jury in San Diego is also investigating Mr. Smith's activities.