

Mitchell Named in Report

Watergate Blame Placed

Washington

The weight of evidence tends to establish that former Attorney General John Mitchell approved the intelligence-gathering plan that led to the Watergate break-in, the Senate Watergate committee staff says in a draft report.

The report, portions of which were made available yesterday by a source close to the Senate committee, also said evidence tends to show that money paid by White House officials to the original Watergate defendants was intended not as support payments but to assure their silence.

The report also rejects any national security justification for the break-in by the White House plumbers unit



SAMUEL DASH
He wrote the report



JOHN MITCHELL
He has denied it

at the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

The source stressed that

the 170-page report is only a rough draft, written mainly

by Watergate committee

chief counsel Samuel Dash, and has not been approved by the committee's seven senators.

The report is to be discussed and perhaps modified by the committee in an executive session today.

During the Watergate hearings last summer, Jeb Magruder, deputy director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, testified that Mitchell had approved the third scaled-down version of an intelligence-gathering plan prepared by G. Gordon Liddy. Mitchell was the head of President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Mitchell has repeatedly denied that allegation.

The portions of the report made available did not state that Mitchell approved the specific operation at the Democratic National Committee.

Magruder said that Mitchell's approval of the general plan prompted Magruder to authorize cash payments that eventually were used to finance the break-in and wiretapping at Democratic

National Committee headquarters.

The draft reports concluded: "The committee finds that the weight of the evidence tends to establish that Mitchell did approve the Liddy, intelligence plan with a quarter-million-dollar budget."

The staff report also dealt with the drafting of a large-scale covert domestic intelligence gathering plan by White House aide Tom Charles Huston.

"Though committee records show that the Huston plan for an interagency domestic intelligence unit was never implemented, the committee finds no evidence to support the President's claim, as reported in his statement of May 22, 1973, that he withdrew his approval of Huston's recommenda-

tions," the draft report said.

The President has said the Huston plan was withdrawn after FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover voiced strong objections. The plan authorized covert break-ins, wiretapping and opening private mail.

These were some of the staff's other conclusions:

- On secret cash payments: "The weight of the evidence can only support the conclusion that these payments were made for the purpose of keeping the Watergate defendants silent as to the involvement of other persons in the Watergate break-in or other activities embarrassing to the White House."

- On the Ellsberg break-in: "The committee finds no legal justification for the Ellsberg break-in on any national security grounds. The committee finds it difficult to accept John D. Ehrlichman's claim that the Ellsberg break-in was not carried out with his express knowledge and authorization."

Associated Press