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# White House Lawyer

## How St. Clair Broke Rules

Washington

White House lawyer James D. St. Clair violated House Judiciary Committee rules of confidentiality yesterday when he referred in a legal memorandum to material the impeachment staff had given the panel last week, its chairman ruled.

Because of the alleged St. Clair violation, Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.) refused to accept his memorandum, which argued against a recommendation that the committee subpoena the tape of an April 4, 1972, presidential conversation.

Rodino ordered all copies of the St. Clair memo recalled from committee members, but a copy was seen by the Associated Press.

"During the special staff presentation to the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 9, 1974," St. Clair wrote "it was suggested that the President was informed of the so-called Liddy plan at a meeting with H. R. Haldeman and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell on April 4, 1972."

The Liddy plan was a proposal for gathering political intelligence during the 1972 election. It included use of illegal eavesdropping and wire tapping.

St. Clair said the impeachment inquiry staff suggested that the tape of the April 4 meeting "was required to

fill an alleged void in the evidence.

"It is respectfully suggested that if the special staff had utilized all of the evidence available to it, no evidentiary gap would exist."

Rodino said after the closed committee session that the St. Clair brief had referred to confidential material and "therefore could not be discussed at a committee meeting."



UPI Telephoto

JAMES D. ST. CLAIR AFTER THE SESSION  
Confidentiality was the issue

St. Clair went on to cite Senate Watergate Committee testimony about discussions of the political intelligence plan. He noted that former White House counsel John W. Dean III had testified that after the second discussion of the plan, he thought it had been rejected and so informed Haldeman.

"Later," St. Clair wrote "(Jeb Stuart) Magruder simply reported to (Gordon C.) Strachan (a Haldeman aide) that 'a sophisticated political intelligence system' had been approved. Magruder did not elaborate and Strachan dutifully reported this information, practically verbatim, in a three-line paragraph in his political matters memo No. 18, Tab H."

Magruder was deputy director of Mr. Nixon's reelection committee.

After citing further Watergate committee testimony, St. Clair concluded:

"The foregoing analysis, utilizing all of the evidence available to the committee, makes it clear that the President did not have prior knowledge of the plan to break into the DNC (Democratic National Committee) and that no subpoena for the April 4, 1972, conversation is warranted."

St. Clair added that the President "stands ready to respond under oath to written and oral questions."

Associated Press