

Committee Given Evidence to Show That

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Nixon Abused Presidential Power

Doar Summary Focuses On Watergate Cover-Up

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WASHINGTON, July 19—The House Judiciary Committee received today a 306-page summary of evidence against President Nixon that "demonstrates," in the view of the committee staff, "various abuses of Presidential power."

The summary, which presents the evidence to support proposed articles of impeachment, was delivered to the committee by John M. Doar, its special counsel.

Marshaling evidence from White House documents and transcripts, from testimony before the committee and elsewhere, and from other sources, the summary provides a detailed narrative of the Watergate case and a less detailed consideration of other alleged abuses of power by Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Doar argued that Mr. Nixon's involvement in the Watergate case began within the first two weeks after the break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

Cover-Up Plan

"Circumstances strongly suggest," he said, "that President Nixon decided, shortly after learning of the Watergate break-in, on a plan to cover up the identities of high officials of the White House and the Committee for the Re-election of the President directly involved in the illegal operation."

Until after the Presidential election in November, Mr. Doar added, "President Nixon's policy of containment—of 'cutting the loss'—worked.

"The policy worked because two of the President's assistants, John Dean, counsel to the President, and Herbert Kalm-

Nixon's Involvement

By that date, when Mr. Nixon later said he knew nothing of the case, he had already done the following things, according to Mr. Doar's summary:

¶ Met with H. R. Haldeman, his chief of staff, and Jonh N. Mitchell, his campaign manager, both of whom were "fully apprised of" White House connections with Watergate.

¶ Arranged, authorized and publicly advanced the misleading explanation for Mitchell's resignation." (It was in fact a result of Watergate, according to Mr. Doar), rather than the personal reasons that were cited.

¶ Received from L. Patrick Gray, then acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a warning about White House interference in the bureau's inquiry into the case.

¶ "Prevented" a personal appearance before the Watergate grand jury by Maurice H. Stans, the chief campaign fund-raiser and former Commerce Secretary.

¶ "Made an untrue public statement about Dean's 'complete investigation' of the Watergate matter," when in fact Mr. Dean "acted to narrow and frustrate the F.B.I. investigation" and "conducted no independent investigation" of his own.

President's Reaction

Reviewing payments made to some of those convicted in the original Watergate case, Mr. Doar described Mr. Nixon's reaction when he got the full details of the "bank

On another subject, Mr. Doar accused Mr. Nixon of having made "repeated untrue statements" to the public. After citing long Presidential discussions of clemency for E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the original Watergate convicts, the committee counsel cites a Presidential comment of Aug. 15, 1973:

"I never authorized the offer of clemency be considered and, as a matter of fact, turned it down whenever it was suggested. It was not recommended by any member of my staff."

Contradictions Noted

"These statements are contradicted by the President's own words," Mr. Doar declared.

Similarly, Mr. Doar maintained that none of the three purported White House investigations of the case—two by Mr. Dean and one by John D. Ehrlichman, then Mr. Nixon's senior domestic affairs adviser—was ever really carried out.

The "report" that the President had in fact requested Dean to make in March, 1973, was one that was designed to mislead investigators and insulate the President from charges of concealment," he asserted.

When his associates lied or "stonewalled" to sustain the cover-up, Mr. Doar said, "the President condoned this conduct, approved it, directed it, rewarded it and in some cases advised witnesses on how to impede the investigators."

And when the cover-up began to unravel late in March, 1973, Mr. Doar said, "there is clear and convincing evidence that the President took over in late March the active management of the cover-up."

Summing up Mr. Nixon's conduct in connection with Water-