

DEAN, IN BOOK, TERMS NIXON COVER-UP KEY

Ex-Counsel Further Implicates His
Former Chief as the Central
Figure in Watergate Case

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By HERBERT MITGARG

In his book, "Blind Ambition: The White House Years," John W. Dean 3d, President Nixon's counsel and a key figure in the Watergate affair and trials, continues to implicate Mr. Nixon as the central personality in the break-in and the cover-up.

The 415-page book turned up in some bookstores yesterday in advance of its early November publication date, and at the Doubleday store on Fifth Avenue and 53d Street, it immediately attracted buyer attention.

Mr. Dean's book appears about one year in advance of the tentatively titled, "President Nixon's Memoirs," portions of which have already found their way into news reports. Mr. Dean's book is a full selection of the Book of the Month Club in November.

Traced to Memorandum

He traces the origins of the Watergate break-in at Democratic National Headquarters in Washington to a memorandum dictated by Mr. Nixon to H. R. Haldeman, his White House chief of staff, on Jan. 14, 1971.

"It would seem that the time is approaching when Larry O'Brien [Democratic party chairman] is held accountable for his retainer with [Howard] Hughes," the President said, in the Dean account. "Bebe [(Rebozo)] has some information on this, although it is, of course, not solid. But there is no question that one of Hughes's people did have O'Brien on a very heavy retainer for 'services rendered' in the past. Perhaps [Charles W.] Colson should check on this."

On the controversial "Huston plan" authorizing domestic intelligence-gathering illegally, Mr. Dean also attributes responsibility to President Nixon.

Reports Restraints Removed

"The President, I discovered, had ordered removal of most of the legal restraints on gathering intelligence about left-wing groups," he writes. "He had authorized wiretaps, mail intercepts and burglaries. These were the hottest papers I had ever touche. The plan had the full support of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Council—of everyone except Hoover's F.B.I. Hoover had footnoted the document with an objection that the risk of each illegal method was greater than the potential return."

The Dean account of Watergate collides with some of the assertions of lack of knowledge on the part of Mr. Nixon reported by those who have read a 164-page manuscript by the former President dealing with his last two weeks in the White House. This manuscript was prepared as part of an international sales effort by Mr. Nixon's book representatives.

Spread of Vulnerability

Mr. Dean asserts, "From the beginning, I knew that the vulnerability of the Watergate affair spread broadly across the whole Administration. The lesser aides came to the counsel with confessions; the higher aides commenced to behave in a stealthy manner. I simply assumed, both from the facts I knew and from my knowledge of procedures in the White House, that the vulnerability went right to the President's office."

One startling reference concerned a typewriter used as evidence against Alger Hiss when Mr. Nixon was a young Congressman from California building a reputation as a Communist-fighter.

In a hearsay report from Charles W. Colson, special counsel to the President, Mr. Dean writes that Mr. Nixon was making one of his frequent references to how he had fought to prove that Mr. Hiss, a State Department official, was "a Communist and a perjurer."

'We Built One'

"The typewriters are always the key," the President told Chuck (Mr. Dean writes). "We built one in the Hiss case."

There is no further explanation of this assertion quoted by Mr. Colson in the Dean book nor is the point made a second time.

In his trial for perjury, Mr. Hiss denied knowledge of the typewriter evidence used against him, and the same denials have appeared recently in studies of the Hiss case based on documents given up by the Federal Government under the Freedom of Information Act.

Both Gerald R. Ford, then House Republican leader, and Senator Robert J. Dole, then Republican party chairman, are quoted as Nixon Administration loyalists during the Watergate affair. But neither is implicated by Mr. Dean as a participant in the break-up or cover-up.