

The original documents are located in Box 55, folder “President - Wright Patman Investigation Clippings” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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A Lot of Gut Feelings

Other members of the Watergate committee are getting media attention, too. Though they were all on the other side of the Hill at the time, Sens. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., and Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., and ex-Sen. Sam Ervin, D-N.C., the committee chairman, have been asked what they know about then-House Minority Leader Gerald Ford's role in

[Oct. 1976]

FORD/DOLE CAMPAIGNWatergate ProbeMoves Made to Reopen Watergate Probe

Richard Nixon aides William Timmons, Richard Cook and John Dean were not sufficiently interviewed by the Justice Department on whether or not Gerald Ford tried to block the Watergate investigation, NBC correspondent Carl Stern reported Tuesday.

Attorney General Edward Levi said last week that the Justice Department would not investigate the charge by John Dean that Ford, then a congressman, tried to stop the hearings. He said this was decided after interviews with two former members of the White House staff.

Dean said Timmons was the witness who was present when Cook reported on alleged meetings with Ford to block the first congressional investigation.

And, Stern said Levi's action rested heavily on denials by Timmons and Cook, both of whom the Justice Department said it had interviewed.

However, Timmons was never questioned, NBC reported. The Department relied only on a three year-old affidavit by Timmons that he had not talked to Ford on the matter--a subject that is not in dispute, Stern added.

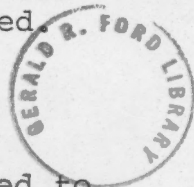
Cook was questioned, but not under oath. And, Stern said, the Department made no efforts to talk to Dean, nor did it ask to see supporting records, which Dean said he possessed.

Levi said told NBC News he considered such steps unnecessary.

Since then, Stern said Justice Department has refused to make public whatever documents supported Levi's decision. He said the documents were requested by NBC under the Freedom of Information Act.

A spokesman for Justice declined the request, saying the material should not be released as a matter of discretion on his part. The spokesman said anyone who is dissatisfied with the investigation can file an appeal with Levi.

In a following anchor report, NBC noted that, in the last Friday's debate, President Ford said the Special Watergate Prosecutor declared there was no reason for him to get involved with Dean's charge because he found nothing to justify it.



The Special Prosecutor said last week that he had no jurisdiction in the matter. Tuesday, the House of Representatives, moves were being made to set up a hearing on Dean's charges sometime this week, NBC reported.

Issues

Ford Assails Carter's Foreign Policy Stance

President Ford said Tuesday that voters will choose Nov. 2 between his foreign policy which he said has kept the United States "strong and at peace," and a Democratic policy that would invite conflict and carries "a strong flavor of isolationism." (CBS)

The President, continuing the barnstorming tour that will continue through election eve, declared in a speech to the Economic Club of Pittsburg that Jimmy Carter would venture "into the unknown with a doctrine that is untested, untried, and in my view potentially dangerous." (ABC, CBS)

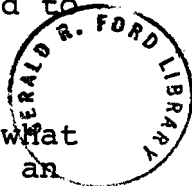
"In place of a strong defense, the alternative called for in this election is weakened defense. In place of strong alliances, we are offered troop pull backs and sweeping reviews of America's commitments to its allies....," Ford said. (NBC)

Some Carter statements on foreign policy, he said, "and I say it with some sorrow, simply reflect inexperience." He said Carter should not say in advance what steps he might or might not take to deal with an international crisis because to do so invites rather than discourages aggression. (CBS)

Ford, without mentioning him by name, singled out some recent statements by Carter on what he would do in the event of another Arab oil embargo and if the Soviet Union tried to take over Yugoslavia by armed force.

Ford said, "In the past, American presidents have always known they should never say in advance precisely what course of action this country would take in the event of an international crisis... When a potential adversary knows what you will and won't do in advance your flexibility is limited and his is increased." (CBS)

"I heard a specific proposal for economic warfare against the Arabs in the event of another oil embargo," Ford said. "I thought such a statement of a specific course of action in advance was a singular mistake, which, once made, would not be repeated."



✓Tapes May Show Ford Lied—Conyers

NEW YORK (UPI)—Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) said Monday that unreleased White House tapes from the Nixon administration might show that Gerald R. Ford had perjured himself before two congressional committees when he said Richard M. Nixon had not ordered him to block the Watergate investigation.

The congressman said that a book written by Nixon's former presidential counsel, John W. Dean III, tells of Nixon's sending word to Ford to head off the investigation. Ford was House Republican leader at the time.

Conyers said he had asked special Watergate prosecutor Charles F. Ruff to investigate the possibility that Ford had been instructed by Nixon to block an early investigation by the House Banking and Currency committee into the source of money found on the Watergate burglars when they were arrested inside Democratic National Committee headquarters in 1972.

That committee, then headed by the late Rep. Wright Patman, voted not to subpoena top White House aides, including Dean and H. R. Haldeman, for questioning about

In a letter to Ruff dated Oct. 8, Conyers said, "I have reason to believe that the tapes covering the period of Sept. 15, 1972, through May, 1973, when the Senate Watergate hearings commenced, contain the information that would clarify Mr. Ford's role in this matter." He asked that the taped conversations between Nixon and Ford be examined.

The tapes are being held by the General Services Administration until the U.S. Supreme Court decides if they belong to Nixon or the American people.

Conyers said also that he would ask Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to investigate the charges.

In Washington, a White House spokesman who was asked to comment on Conyers' remarks said only, "That is a matter for the courts to decide."

R W

AM-WATERGATE SKED 10-12

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- JOHN DEAN SAID WEDNESDAY THAT GERALD FORD, WHILE HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER, WAS CONTACTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1972 ON BLOCKING THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL WATERGATE INVESTIGATION. FORD HAS TESTIFIED THAT HE RECALLED NO SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

SHORTLY AFTER DEAN MADE HIS STATEMENT, REP. JOHN CONYERS, D-MICH., TOLD REPORTERS THAT SPECIAL PROSECUTOR CHARLES RUFF INDICATED HE WILL DECIDE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK WHETHER TO INVESTIGATE FORD'S ROLE IN HEADING OFF A 1973 WATERGATE INQUIRY BY THE HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE.

DEAN, THE FORMER NIXON AIDE WHOSE TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE HELPED LEAD TO NIXON'S RESIGNATION AS PRESIDENT, SAID ON NBC-TV'S TODAY SHOW THAT RICHARD COOK OF NIXON'S STAFF TALKED WITH FORD MORE THAN A HALF DOZEN TIMES ABOUT USING HIS INFLUENCE TO STAVE OFF THE INVESTIGATION.

DEAN SAID FORD AT ONE POINT INDICATED HE WOULD TELL REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE BANKING COMMITTEE "WHAT THEY SHOULD DO ON THE DAY OF THE VOTE" WHEN THE PANEL DECIDED WHETHER TO LOOK INTO THE WATERGATE BURGLARY.

COOK DENIED DEAN'S ALLEGATIONS, ACCUSING HIM OF "VICIOUS LIES AND CLEVER DISTORTIONS."

"THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE TRUTH," SAID COOK, NOW EMPLOYED BY AN AIRCRAFT COMPANY. HE SAID HE DID NOT CONTACT FORD "DESPITE JOHN DEAN'S REPEATED AND FRANTIC REQUESTS" THAT HE DO SO.

FORD TESTIFIED AT HEARINGS ON HIS CONFIRMATION AS VICE PRESIDENT IN 1973 THAT "TO THE BEST OF MY RECOLLECTION" HE DID NOT TALK WITH ANY OF NIXON'S STAFF ABOUT BLOCKING THE INQUIRY.

DEAN SAID, "COOK WAS THE MAN WHO DID THE LEG WORK AND DEALT WITH MR. FORD AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ...

"I CAN RECALL DICK (COOK) COMING BACK AND TELLING, FOR EXAMPLE, HOW JERRY WAS GOING TO CALL A MEETING OF THE MINORITY MEMBERS ... AND REALLY TELL THEM WHAT THEY SHOULD DO ON THE DAY OF THE VOTE AND HOW THEY SHOULD HOLD TOGETHER AND THINGS OF THIS NATURE."

ASKED IF THAT MEANT THE REPUBLICANS WERE TO TRY BLOCKING THE HEARINGS, DEAN REPLIED: "THAT'S CORRECT."

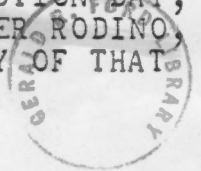
THE BANKING COMMITTEE STARTED AN INVESTIGATION OF WATERGATE, BUT IT WAS THWARTED IN OCTOBER, 1972, WHEN THE PANEL VOTED 20 TO 15 NOT TO SUBPOENA WITNESSES.

CONYERS, WHO DEMANDED LAST WEEK THAT THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR LOOK INTO FORD'S ROLE, SAID RUFF TOLD HIM TUESDAY HE PROBABLY WOULD DECIDE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER BY WEEK'S END.

CONYERS TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THE QUESTIONS CAN BE CLEARED UP IF RUFF WILL LISTEN TO ABOUT 200 WHITE HOUSE TAPES, COVERING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER, 1972, THROUGH MAY, 1973, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD OR TRANSCRIBED.

"SOMEBODY MUST LISTEN TO THOSE TAPES BEFORE NOV. 2," ELECTION DAY, CONYERS SAID. AND HE SAID HE WILL CONFER WITH CHAIRMAN PETER RODINO, D-N.J., OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THAT PANEL LOOKING INTO THE MATTER.

UPI 10-13 02:18 PED



UP-057

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(CONYERS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- REP. JOHN CONYERS, D-MICH., SAID TODAY SPECIAL PROSECUTOR CHARLES RUFF HAD INDICATED HE WOULD DECIDE BY THE END OF THE WEEK WHETHER HE WILL INVESTIGATE PRESIDENT FORD'S ROLE IN BLOCKING A 1973 WATERGATE INVESTIGATION BY THE HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE.

CONYERS DEMANDED THE INVESTIGATION IN A LETTER TO RUFF LAST WEEK, AND MET WITH RUFF TUESDAY.

CONYERS SAID ONLY SOME 200 UNHEARD WHITE HOUSE TAPES, RANGING FROM SEPTEMBER, 1972, THROUGH MAY, 1973, CAN DETERMINE WHETHER FORD, THEN HOUSE GOP LEADER, CONSPIRED WITH RICHARD NIXON TO BLOCK THE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION AND WHETHER FORD COMMITTED PERJURY IN ASSURING HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES DURING CONFIRMATION HEARINGS THAT HE DID NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE WHITE HOUSE.

"SOMEBODY MUST LISTEN TO THOSE TAPES BEFORE NOV. 2," CONYERS TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE.

CONYERS ALSO SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH HOUSE JUDICIARY CHAIRMAN PETER RODINO, D-N.J., WHETHER THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD HOLD HEARINGS ON FORD'S POSSIBLE ROLE AND HIS DENIAL THAT HE WAS ACTING IN CONCERT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE.

FORD HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BLOCKING THE INVESTIGATION BY FORMER BANKING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WRIGHT PATMAN, D-TEX., BUT SAID HE WAS ACTING ON HIS OWN WITHOUT WHITE HOUSE DIRECTIONS.

CONYERS SAID RUFF INDICATED IN A MEETING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON HE WOULD HAVE AN ANSWER BY THE END OF THE WEEK AS TO WHETHER THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WOULD INVESTIGATE.

CONYERS POINTED OUT THAT THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR HAS ACCESS TO MORE THAN 200 TAPES, MOST OF WHICH INVOLVE EITHER TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS OR MEETINGS BETWEEN NIXON AND FORD, WHICH NO ONE HAS LISTENED TO OR TRANSCRIBED.

EVIDENCE UNCOVERED BY THE NEWS MEDIA AND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN JOHN DEAN'S BOOK "BLIND AMBITION" LED HIM TO REQUEST THE INVESTIGATION NOW, CONYERS SAID.

UPI 10-13 01:12 PED



FORD-DEAN LEAD
BY MICHAEL PUTZEL

WASHINGTON (AP) -- SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR CHARLES RUFF REPORTEDLY WILL DECIDE THIS WEEK WHETHER TO LOOK INTO CLAIMS THAT PRESIDENT FORD DISCUSSED BLOCKING AN EARLY WATERGATE INVESTIGATION WITH OFFICIALS OF THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE.

REPS. ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, D-N.Y., AND JOHN CONYERS, D-MICH., MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE THAT VOTED TO RECOMMEND IMPEACHMENT OF RICHARD NIXON, HAVE ASKED RUFF TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY THAT FORD LIED AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

CONYERS SAID HE MET WITH RUFF TUESDAY AND WAS TOLD THE PROSECUTOR'S DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

THE INCIDENT IN QUESTION OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1972 WHEN THE LATE REP. WRIGHT PATMAN WAS SEEKING AUTHORITY FROM HIS HOUSE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT IN THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN THE PREVIOUS JUNE.

NIXON, ACCORDING TO THE WHITE HOUSE TAPES, DIRECTED THAT THEN-HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD FORD BE ENLISTED TO HELP BLOCK PATMAN'S INQUIRY. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS AS TO WHETHER NIXON'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT.

IN 1973, AFTER FORD WAS NOMINATED TO BE VICE PRESIDENT, HE TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD NOT TALKED TO NIXON, CHIEF OF STAFF H. R. HALDEMAN, DOMESTIC ADVISER JOHN D. EHRlichMAN OR WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN W. DEAN III ABOUT BLOCKING THE PATMAN HEARINGS. BUT HE ADDED THAT HE WAS IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH WHITE HOUSE LOBBYISTS DURING THAT PERIOD, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF DISCUSSING THAT SPECIFIC ISSUE WITH THEM.

FORD SUPPORTED THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO THWART PATMAN'S INQUIRY DURING THE 1972 ELECTION CAMPAIGN, BUT HE INSISTED HE DID SO ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

DEAN, IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST TODAY ON NBC'S TODAY SHOW, SAID THE MAN DETAILED TO RELAY NIXON'S WISHES TO FORD WAS RICHARD K. COOK, A WHITE HOUSE LOBBYIST WHO IS NOW WASHINGTON VICE PRESIDENT FOR LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP.

"COOK WAS THE MAN WHO DID THE LEGWORK AND DEALT WITH MR. FORD AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE (PATMAN) COMMITTEE," DEAN SAID. "I CAN RECALL DICK COMING BACK AND TELLING, FOR EXAMPLE, HOW JERRY WAS GOING TO CALL A MEETING OF THE MINORITY MEMBERS ... AND REALLY TELL THEM WHAT THEY SHOULD DO ON THE DAY OF THE VOTE AND HOW THEY SHOULD HOLD TOGETHER AND THINGS OF THIS NATURE."

COOK, IN A STATEMENT RESPONDING TO DEAN, SAID: "DESPITE JOHN DEAN'S REPEATED AND FRANTIC REQUESTS, I NEVER SPOKE WITH MR. FORD ABOUT THE NEED TO DENY MR. PATMAN'S REQUEST FOR SUBPOENA POWER," WHICH WAS THE ISSUE THE REPUBLICANS FOUGHT IN ORDER TO KILL THE PROBE.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND," COOK ADDED, "THAT THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE TRUTH" AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS.

10-13-76 15:38EDT



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BC-Deep Throat, 340

NEW YORK AP - Former White House counsel John Dean concluded while in prison that "Deep Throat," the mysterious informer in the Washington Post's coverage of the Watergate scandal, was Nixon speechwriter David Gergen, the New York Post said Wednesday. The Post said Dean arrived at his conclusion after talking with former White House friends and long personal deliberation. But the Post said Dean declined to name Gergen as the figure in his just-published book, "Blind Ambition - the White House Years," because he was not absolutely sure.

The 34-year-old Gergen, now director of President Ford's White House Office of Communications, said, "there is not one scintilla of evidence that I had, or was in a position to have," the material Deep Throat gave to Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward.

Since Woodward and fellow reporter Carl Bernstein wrote about the cover-up scandal, guessing the identity of "Deep Throat," has been a favorite parlor game around Washington with names such as former CIA Director Richard Helms, former FBI Director L. Patrick Gray, former Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst, former FBI official W. Mark Felt and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, often cropping up. Taylor Branch, who edited Dean's book, said Dean thought long and hard about his "Deep Throat," conclusion. Taylor said it was only Dean's penchant for total accuracy that prevented the former White House counsel from naming Gergen in the book.

The Post said that Gergen has acknowledged that he acted as a contact between Woodward and the White House from the spring of 1973 through the Watergate period but he insists that during 1972, when the break-in and cover-up took place, he had "zero contact," with Woodward.

According to the Post, Gergen also maintains that his contact with Woodward while he was in the White House was a "known relationship." He said he made appointments with the reporter through then White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr., "so they would know I was talking to him. Even the President knew I was talking to him."

1425pED 10-13



A-16

Page

The Washington Post

10-14-76

Date

Justice Department Eyes Conyers' 1972 Campaign

The Justice Department is investigating allegations that violations of federal election finance laws occurred in the 1972 re-election campaign of Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich).

Reliable sources said yesterday that the allegations of wrongdoing appear to involve members of Conyers' staff rather than the congressman. They were unable to specify their precise nature.

A322

R W

AM-FORD-WATERGATE INSERT9THGRAF A294 10-14

XXX THIS.

REP. ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, D-N.Y., A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, CALLED FORD'S DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION "EVASIVE AND MISLEADING."

SHE SAID THE COMMITTEE DID NOT KNOW AT THE TIME OF THE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD GIVEN ORDERS TO HAVE FORD STOP THE INVESTIGATION AND DID NOT HAVE COOK'S NAME AS THE ALLEGED CONTACT MAN.

"JOHN DEAN'S ALLEGATIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED, CONTRADICTIONS IN MR. FORD'S TESTIMONY REMAIN UNRESOLVED, AND THE QUESTIONS ABOUT MR. FORD'S ROLE REMAIN UNANSWERED," MRS. HOLTZMAN SAID IN A STATEMENT.

PICKUP 10TH GRAF: THE PRESENT
UPI 10-14 11:24 PED

A327

D A

AM-AGNEW 10-14

IOWA CITY, IOWA (UPI) -- EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WHICH LED TO THE RESIGNATION OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT SPIRO T. AGNEW WAS "SUFFICIENT AND OVERWHELMING TO CONVICT HIM," COMMERCE SECRETARY ELLIOT RICHARDSON SAID THURSDAY.

RICHARDSON, A FOUR-TIME CABINET MEMBER WHO WAS SERVING AS ATTORNEY GENERAL AT THE TIME FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS BEGAN PROBING AGNEW'S FINANCIAL DEALINGS, WAS ASKED AT A CAMPAIGN RALLY ABOUT AGNEW'S RECENT ALLEGATION THE EVIDENCE GATHERED AGAINST HIM WAS WEAK AND OBTAINED FROM WITNESSES WHO HAD A PERSONAL INTEREST IN SEEING HIM DISGRACED.

"THE EVIDENCE WAS SUFFICIENT AND OVERWHELMING," RICHARDSON SAID. "THERE WAS NO DOUBT."

RICHARDSON ALSO SAID HE KNEW BY OCTOBER 1973 THAT RICHARD NIXON "WAS FACING GRAVE CHARGES AND WAS HEADING TOWARD IMPEACHMENT." HE SAID THE AGNEW CASE, COUPLED WITH NIXON'S IMPENDING LEGAL PROBLEMS, MADE HIS POSITION AS ATTORNEY GENERAL "DIFFICULT."

DUPLICATE TO B-WIRE
UPI 10-14 11:55 PED

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AM-FORD INSERT2NDLD-6THGRAF A287 10-14

XXX HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE CHARGE OF "SLANDER," CARTER TOLD REPORTERS IN NEW YORK: "MY CRITICISM OF THIS ADMINISTRATION CAN'T BE TRANSLATED INTO CRITICISM OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY."

CARTER SAID FORD HAD TURNED THE NEWS CONFERENCE INTO A ONE-MAN DEBATE INSTEAD OF ANSWERING QUESTIONS.

"I'LL HAVE TO BE CRITICAL OF HIM FOR HAVING A PRESS CONFERENCE AND NOT ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS," CARTER SAID. "IT'S REMARKABLE. HE THOUGHT HE'D HAVE A DEBATE WITHOUT MY BEING THERE. I DON'T KNOW HOW I DID IN THE FIRST TWO DEBATES BUT I THINK I DID PRETTY WELL IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE TONIGHT."

PICKUP 7TH GRAF: ASKED LATER
UPI 10-14 10:36 PED

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FAM-DEAN-FORD; 200

FURGENT

FBy MIKE SHANAHAN

FASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR CHARLES RUFF SAID FRIDAY HE HAS DECIDED AGAINST A FULL SCALE INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND OFFICIALS OF THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE DISCUSSED BLOCKING THE FIRST WATERGATE INVESTIGATIONS.

RUFF; HOWEVER; LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN INVESTIGATION INTO FORD'S ROLE MIGHT BE HANDLED BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

IN A LETTER TO DEMOCRATIC REFS. ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN OF NEW YORK AND JOHN CONYERS OF CALIFORNIA; RUFF SAID NEITHER "PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION" NOR RECENT STATEMENTS BY FORMER WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN W. DEAN III ARE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY A NEW INVESTIGATION.

AT ISSUE IS WHETHER FORD; WHEN HE WAS HOUSE MINORITY LEADER; ACTED AT THE REQUEST OF FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON; AND LED EFFORTS TO CUT SHORT AN EARLY WATERGATE INVESTIGATION BY THE LATE REP. WRIGHT PATMAN; D-TEX.; CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

PATMAN HAD URGED THE COMMITTEE TO GRANT AUTHORITY FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LAUNDERING OF FUNDS LATER DISCLOSED TO HAVE FINANCED THE ORIGINAL WATERGATE BREAK-IN.

OPPOSED BY THE REPUBLICANS ON THE COMMITTEE AND A FEW DEMOCRATS; THE PROPOSED INVESTIGATION WAS DISAPPROVED AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL OTHER CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS THAT THE WATERGATE SCANDALS WERE EXPOSED.

FMORE

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The Washington Star

JOE L. ALLBRITTON, *Publisher*

JAMES G. BELLOWS, *Editor*

SIDNEY EPSTEIN, *Managing Editor*

EDWIN M. YODER JR., *Associate Editor*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1976

Politics and the prosecutor

If there was any doubt before, the danger of a permanent special prosecutor's office ought to be clear now. The office can't be kept out of politics.

We respect Watergate prosecutor Charles Ruff as a man of integrity. We don't believe he

no evidence turned up to indicate illegal use of campaign funds by Mr. Ford while he was in Congress.

But now Mr. Ruff has been asked to undertake another investigation of Mr. Ford. This one has to do with claims that Mr. Ford, as minority

Did Ford Block Watergate Inquiry?

Ruff to Answer Today On Latest Probe Plea

By Jerry Oppenheimer

Washington Star Staff Writer

With his probe of President Ford's congressional campaign finances now closed, Watergate Special Prosecutor Charles Ruff was moving today toward a decision on whether to investigate reports that Ford helped block a 1972 congressional Watergate inquiry at the behest of the Nixon White House.

In a telephone interview last night, Ruff said he had not yet decided whether to begin the investigation that was formally requested this week by two House Democrats, New York's Elizabeth Holtzman and John Conyers Jr. of Michigan.

national Union to Ford for his personal use.

Calhoon, who testified before a federal grand jury last week, said he "could not even speculate on who made the allegations or what the allegations were. But I'd sure like to find out, I wish I knew."

Meanwhile, Charles H. Morin, the union's attorney, said last night he had received no formal notification from Ruff's office concerning the outcome of the investigation as it related to the union. But based on Ruff's statement clearing the President, Morin said, "We have nothing more to be concerned about."

STAR, 10-16-76

Ruff Says He Won't Probe Ford Hill Watergate Action

By Jerry Oppenheimer

Washington Star Staff Writer

Watergate Special Prosecutor Charles Ruff said yesterday he has decided against opening an investigation into allegations that President Ford, while serving as House minority leader in 1972, took part in a Nixon White House effort to block a congressional Watergate inquiry.

Ruff, in letters sent to two Democratic House members who requested the investigation, said that it was "my judgment" that previous and new information made public regarding Ford's alleged role in the

matter does not warrant a renewed investigation.

The investigation had been requested by Democratic Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman of New York and John Conyers Jr. of Michigan.

Holtzman called Ruff's refusal to investigate "regrettable" and urged him to reconsider. Conyers immediately sent off a letter to Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi asking for either a Justice Department investigation or a formal referral by him to Ruff to begin an investigation.

See RUFF, A-6



POST, 10-16-76

Probe of Ford Role in Blocking '72 Watergate Inquiry Rejected

Watergate Special Prosecutor Charles F. Ruff yesterday rejected demands by some members of Congress that he investigate President Ford's role in blocking a 1972 House inquiry into the Watergate scandal.

Ruff said there was no indication of criminal intent in the political maneuvering that took place last year.

Ruff said Watergate prosecutors in charge of the cover-up investigation had given "some consideration to the implications of White House efforts to prevent the issuance of subpoenas by the committee" but determined that there was insufficient evidence of criminal intent.

10/17/74 - N.Y. Times

Ford Plays Defense

Cleared in Fund Case, but Now Faces John Dean

Gerald Ford's personal and political finances during the latter days of his Congressional career have been declared faultless after an investigation by the Watergate special prosecutor, thus relieving Mr. Ford of a campaign

Mr. Ford was twice asked about Mr. Dean's allegations, and twice answered only by referring to his response under oath during his Vice Presidential confirmation hearings when he was asked whether he had been in contact with the White House about the abortive hearings. He said then, "Not to my best recollection."

Congressional Democrats demanded that Mr. Ruff look into the matter, and that his office listen to tapes of Nixon-Ford conversations that might produce pertinent evidence; apparently, nobody has ever listened to those tapes. Mr. Ruff last week declined, on the ground there was no indication the subject was within his jurisdiction.

The Democrats immediately asked for an inquiry instead by Attorney General Edward H. Levi, creating what may be a political no-win situation for Mr. Ford. If Mr. Levi declines, the matter will rest with Mr. Dean's specific, damaging recollection opposed to Mr. Ford's sworn but qualified denial. If

N.Y. TIMES
10/17/76

Mr. Ford on Watergate

All Americans can greet with relief the announcement by Charles F. Ruff, the Watergate special prosecutor, that he has found no evidence that President Ford diverted campaign contributions to his private use. Revelations of any financial irregularity would have been a stunning blow to a country still recovering from the forced resignations of President Nixon and Vice President Agnew. If the matter had been left unresolved, it would have cast a distorting shadow over the election.

Since the President's financial probity has been reaffirmed, it is unfortunate that Mr. Ford failed to dispose straightforwardly of another piece of Watergate

of liaison with House Republicans for the White House, was in touch with Mr. Ford a half-dozen times concerning the Patman matter.

At his news conference on Thursday evening, Mr. Ford was asked whether he had talked with Mr. Cook on Watergate at that time. Later, another reporter asked if—in the light of the Nixon tapes and Mr. Dean's book, both of which contradict his 1973 testimony—Mr. Ford had any better recollection than he had had in 1973. The President ducked both questions by harking back to the favorable votes of the Congressional committees on his confirmation.

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PM-WATERGATE 1STLD-PICKUP2NDGRAF A035 10-19

BY WESLEY G. PIPPERT

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- REP. ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN TOLD ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWARD LEVI TODAY THAT WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD TESTIFIED TRUTHFULLY ABOUT WATERGATE IN 1973 OUGHT TO BE SETTLED BEFORE THE ELECTION.

"IF MR. FORD IS INNOCENT, HE IS ENTITLED TO HAVE HIS NAME CLEARED BY A CREDIBLE AGENCY," SAID THE NEW YORK DEMOCRAT IN A LETTER TO LEVI.

"IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, CRIMINAL CHARGES ARE JUSTIFIED, THE PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED TO KNOW THAT SUCH CHARGES ARE NOT THE RESULT OF PARTISANSHIP."

MISS HOLTZMAN, A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WHICH PASSED ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON, URGED THAT WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR CHARLES F.C. RUFF INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS THAT FORD TRIED TO HALT THE WATERGATE INVESTIGATION AT THE BEHEST OF THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE.

ACCORDING TO THE WHITE HOUSE TAPES, NIXON AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN W. DEAN III TALKED ON SEPT. 15, 1972, ABOUT HAVING THEN-HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER FORD INTERVENE TO THE PATMAN INVESTIGATION. DEAN SAID RECENTLY THAT WHITE HOUSE AIDE DICK COOK WAS WORKING WITH FORD ON THE MATTER AT THE TIME.

FORD TESTIFIED AT HIS VICE PRESIDENTIAL HEARINGS NOV. 5, 1973, THAT HE HAD TRIED TO PREVENT THE INVESTIGATION. BUT HE SAID HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE ABOUT IT.

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, FORD MERELY CITED HIS 1973 TESTIMONY.

RUFF HAS SAID "THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT LIKELIHOOD" THAT FORD'S EFFORTS COULD BE ESTABLISHED AS OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE. BUT HE SAID THE TRUTHFULNESS OF FORD'S TESTIMONY ON WHETHER HE WORKED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE WAS A MATTER FOR THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

"IF GERALD FORD LIED UNDER OATH IN ORDER TO CONCEAL RICHARD NIXON'S DIRECT ORDERS THAT HE BLOCK THE PATMAN INVESTIGATION, HIS ACTION SERVED TO HIDE MR. NIXON'S COMMANDING ROLE IN THE COVER-UP CONSPIRACY," MISS HOLTZMAN SAID.

"THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S JURISDICTION OVER ANY OFFENSE COMMITTED BY MR. FORD IN THIS REGARD IS MANDATORY," SHE SAID.

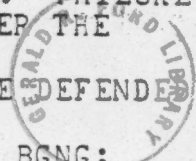
MISS HOLTZMAN SAID RUFF NEED ONLY INTERVIEW DEAN, COOK, FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF H.R. "BOB" HALDEMAN AND FORMER WHITE HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON WILLIAM TIMMONS AND REVIEW TAPES, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE PERIOD BETWEEN SEPT. 15, 1972, AND THE ELECTION.

"THESE STEPS CAN BE TAKEN WELL BEFORE NOV. 2," SHE SAID. "FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER WOULD LEAVE A CLOUD HANGING OVER THE ELECTION."

TWO REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE DEFENDED FORD MONDAY.

PICKUP 2NDGRAF: SENS. HOWARD, AND DELETE LAST FOUR GRAFS BGNG: ACCORDING TO

UPI 10-19 10:35 AED



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PM-WATERGATE 10-19

BY WESLEY G. PIPPERT

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- TWO REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE SUPPORT PRESIDENT FORD AGAINST CHARGES HE ACTED AT THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE'S BEHEST IN TRYING TO PREVENT A WATERGATE INVESTIGATION DURING THE 1972 CAMPAIGN.

SENS. HOWARD H. BAKER JR., THE VICE CHAIRMAN, AND LOWELL P. WEICKER JR., REACTED SHARPLY TO WATERGATE QUESTIONS MONDAY AT A WHITE HOUSE NEWS BRIEFING CALLED TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN.

BAKER CITED FORD'S OWN STATEMENTS ABOUT EFFORTS TO BLOCK AN INVESTIGATION BY THEN REP. WRIGHT PATMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE.

"I KNOW I HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT HE (FORD) DID," BAKER ADDED.

BAKER SAID THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE WATERGATE AFFAIR -- WHICH PUT FORD INTO THE WHITE HOUSE -- WAS THE MOST THOROUGH IN HISTORY. THE TENNESSEE REPUBLICAN PRESUMABLY WAS REFERRING TO THE 1973-74 SENATE INVESTIGATION SINCE THE PATMAN INQUIRY NEVER GOT OFF THE GROUND.

"I'M SAYING JERRY FORD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH BLOCKING THAT INVESTIGATION," BAKER SAID.

FORMER SEN. SAM ERVIN, WATERGATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, SAID TWO DAYS AGO THERE WAS "NO QUESTION" THAT FORD BLOCKED THE HOUSE PROBE. "HE DID IT ON A PARTISAN BASIS," ERVIN TOLD STATION WSOC OF CHARLOTTE, N.C.

"I VERY MUCH RESENT IMPLICATIONS," WEICKER SAID, "THAT THERE IS SOME STORY (ABOUT WATERGATE) THAT HASN'T BEEN TOLD. I KNOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE THE TRUTH."

ACCORDING TO THE WHITE HOUSE TAPES, RICHARD M. NIXON AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN W. DEAN III TALKED ON SEPT. 15, 1972, ABOUT HAVING FORD INTERVENE TO STOP THE PATMAN INVESTIGATION. DEAN SAID WHITE HOUSE AIDE DICK COOK WAS WORKING ON IT.

FORD TESTIFIED AT HIS VICE PRESIDENTIAL HEARINGS NOV. 5, 1973, THAT HE HAD WORKED TO PREVENT THE INVESTIGATION. BUT HE SAID HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE ABOUT IT.

DEAN SAID SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT FORD HAD SIX CONVERSATIONS WITH COOK ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION. AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, FORD MERELY CITED HIS 1973 TESTIMONY.

SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR CHARLES F.C. RUFF SAID "THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT LIKELIHOOD" THAT FORD'S EFFORTS COULD BE ESTABLISHED AS OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE. BUT HE SAID THE TRUTHFULNESS OF FORD'S TESTIMONY WAS A MATTER FOR THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

UPI 10-19 03:45 AED



DEAN

Continued From A-1

Q: You claim that White House lobbyist Richard Cook went to Ford and asked him to block the Watergate investigation. Ford has said that he opposed the investigation but not because the White House asked him to. Who's telling the truth here?

Q: I certainly know that I'm telling the truth. There's no doubt in my mind. I can't think of any person who has less motive to lie than myself. The one thing that I feel I have to hold on to is the truth. I have no motive to lie. I think that the way the question may someday be resolved is if the tapes are ever played. I don't know whether it's on the tapes or not but there's a good chance, given the way that things got reported back to the president, there's going to be a reference on the tape to what happened.

Q: What do you think the chances are that Ford could have been involved in the conspiracy to cover-up Watergate — wittingly or unwittingly?



JOHN DEAN

"What I Know to Be True"

A: I think it was a culmination of trends that came together in the Nixon years. One of the assignments I had, for example, in the days of the cover-up was to look back over preceding presidencies and see what had happened; to see if there wasn't some dirt back there that we could

Q and A

Dean: Didn't Aim to Cause A Problem

John Dean, former counsel to President Richard M. Nixon, is credited with shedding much light on the internal workings of the White House during the period of the Watergate cover-up. For his role in those activities, Dean served four months in prison. Most recently, Dean has stirred new controversy with his reporting of Earl Butz's humor and

10/21/76

*Cook Says He Chose to Ignore Dean's Order***Ex-Nixon Aide: Never Contacted Ford****By Jerry Oppenheimer**

Washington Star Staff Writer

Richard K. Cook, former chief House lobbyist for former President Richard M. Nixon, said last night he chose not to follow John Dean's 1972 instructions to enlist Gerald Ford, then House Minority Leader, in an effort to block a congressional inquiry into Watergate because it

Rep. John Conyers Jr. of Michigan said through a spokesman last night that Levi's decision is "somewhat of a stonewall." He called on Ford to release tapes that both Conyers and Holtzman believe would show conclusively whether Ford was telling the truth when he said he acted on his own in blocking the inquiry.

NOW A LOBBYIST in private

These were the most detailed comments Cook has made publicly in the controversy over whether Ford acted on his own in helping to block the committee probe, as Ford testified during his vice-presidential confirmation hearings in 1973. The whole issue surfaced again after Dean made his allegation recently while publicizing his new book.

Levi in announcing his decision

EX-NIXON AIDE: Never Contacted Ford

By Jerry Oppenheimer

Washington Star Staff Writer

Richard K. Cook, former chief House lobbyist for former President Richard M. Nixon, said last night he chose not to follow John Dean's 1972 instructions to enlist Gerald Ford, then House Minority Leader, in an effort to block a congressional inquiry into Watergate because it would have been "clumsy, misinterpreted and bad tactics."

Cook, in response to Dean's allegation that Cook recruited Ford to help block the inquiry by the House Banking and Currency Committee, declared that "there was never a meeting or a phone call with Ford on this issue."

Cook asserted that if he had been a member of the committee at the time

earned on both sides of the aisle" and arrange for them to meet with Dean and Maurice Stans, the former Commerce secretary. Cook declined to name the two individuals but said that at the meeting, "I looked Dean in the eye and told him to tell these people the truth."

HE SAID DEAN told them there was no truth to the Watergate allegations the committee sought to take up. "That was the last overt act I took to influence that committee," Cook said. "I took every prudent course to ensure that I was not misleading the members of this committee."

These were the most detailed comments Cook has made publicly in the controversy over whether Ford acted



Dean: Ford Didn't Know About Watergate Conspiracy

John Dean said today that he did not believe President Ford, while House Minority Leader, had any knowledge of the Watergate conspiracy brewing in the White House.

"I know I didn't brief him. I know of no one else at the white House who did brief him. I think that when he got involved in stopping the Patman hearings he was doing what he thought he should do as Minority Leader," Dean added.

Dean recalled that on September 15, 1972, President Nixon said that Ford wasn't helping and that the Minority Leaders weren't holding together, Nixon then gave "very specific orders" for getting Ford to help.

"The next thing I know," Dean said in the ABC interview, "I'm getting reports back that Ford is helping and indeed did help."

Dean said he had "no idea" if there was anything that could incriminate Ford on the White House tapes.

Asked why his book, "Blind Ambition," was put on sale at this time, Dean stated, "It wasn't by design. I was surprised the Watergate issue came up at this point." He noted that his book was scheduled to come out in January 1977 but was chosen by the Book-of-the-Month Club for November. Dean added that he doesn't "particularly enjoy being in the middle of a campaign controversy."
--Good Morning America (10-21-76)



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Phil Buchen

FROM: AGNES WALDRON

Bill Roberts
asked that I
send you the
attached



Thursday, Sept. 23, 1976

Dean Book Accuses Ford on Watergate

By Jules Witcover

Washington Post Staff Writer

Former Nixon aide John W. Dean III says in his soon-to-be-published book that he was told Gerald R. Ford had knowledge of, and discussed tactics in, the White House's effort to block a Watergate investigation before the 1972 presidential election.

Dean, in his book, "Blind Ambition," says former Nixon congressional liaison chief William E. Timmons told him he (Timmons) in September, 1972, had discussed with Mr. Ford the possibility of trying to blackmail Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex.) into dropping his planned inquiry. The idea was rejected by Mr. Ford and Timmons, Dean says.

Timmons, now a Washington lobbyist, said yesterday he did have a conversation with Dean about using a report of an alleged illegal campaign contribution to deter Patman. But Timmons said he rejected it outright. Timmons said he never discussed that or any other tactic for sidetracking the impending investigation with Mr. Ford.

At the White House, Richard B. Cheney, President Ford's chief of staff, said last night the White House would stand on Mr. Ford's testimony before two congressional committees in 1973 that he had never had any conversations with anyone in the White House about blocking Patman's proposed investigation.

he said "even in this case I do not recall any conversations concerning this particular matter."

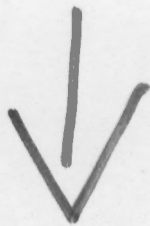
Jake Lewis, the House Banking and Currency Committee staff aide who worked most closely with Patman on the Watergate matter, said yesterday that after the Nixon White House tapes were made public, Patman tried to get the Senate Watergate committee to subpoena tapes from Sept. 15 to Oct. 3, 1972. He hoped, Lewis said, they would reveal whether Nixon's orders had been carried out, and by whom.

But the tapes still have not been made public, he noted. Concerned that they might be lost or destroyed, Lewis said, Patman on Aug. 8, 1974, the day President Nixon announced his resignation, wrote to the House Judiciary Committee urging that all tapes be kept intact.

Dean writes in his book, to be published in November by Simon and Schuster, that former Gov. John B. Connally of Texas told him he had heard in Texas that Patman, now deceased, may have "received some contributions from an oil lobbyist" that he had not reported.

Dean says he asked the Nixon campaign committee's lawyer, Kenneth Parkinson, to check into campaign contributions to Patman and other members of the committee, and had passed Connally's idea on to Timmons.

"Timmons, who met regularly with Jerry Ford, had explored with him Connally's suggestions about Patman," Dean writes in the book.



Garry Wills

The John Dean shadow over Ford

The President had good news to give his press conference — he had been cleared of the charge that he misused campaign funds. But he exposed himself to the small cloud that has sailed ominously up on the horizon of many public figures, almost always as the harbinger of disaster. That small cloud is named John Dean; and Dean's book, along with his interview on the "Today Show"

could order Haldeman to get to Ford, Haldeman could order Ehrlichman and Dean, Dean could call John Connally, John Connally could talk to William Timmons — all on this subject — and yet Ford would never get any signal from the White House?

Now Dean has added one of those devastating specifics for which he is famous, and on which so many careers have foundered. He

dent) by committing perjury.

The case that can be made against Ford was effectively made by Marjorie Boyd in the October, 1975, issue of *Washington Monthly*. Her article was called: "Is the President a Perjurer?" She recalled how anxious the congressional committees were to get a vice president installed while Nixon wobbled and

Nixon told them to. None of them would have opposed him in this matter. Indeed, among Haldeman's notes from that meeting is a direct message for Ehrlichman: "Get Garry Brown and Ford in."

Ford became very energetic against the Patman committee at just this time. Indeed, when the investigation was called off, and the committee released a pre-

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Nixon Tapes Back to Haunt GOP

Those pernicious, all-hearing Nixon tapes are back again to haunt the GOP. The tapes seem to support the charge by John W. Dean III that in 1972 President Nixon used Gerald Ford to help block a Watergate investigation.

Even more troublesome, we have now established that Nixon purposely altered the tape transcripts to cover up Ford's possible role in stopping the late Rep. Wright Patman (D.-Tex.) from investigating Watergate.

Patman was hot on the trail of the Watergate conspiracy before the 1972

Nixon was emphatic. He said Ford should be told: "Now goddamnit, get the hell over with this (ending the probe)." To stress the urgency, Nixon added: "I'm getting into this thing."

These statements were picked up by the hidden microphone in the Oval Office. But Nixon later deleted them from the transcript.

At another point, Nixon suggested that Rep. William B. Widnall (R-N.J.), the top Republican on Patman's committee, was too weak to stall the investigation. "Put it down," instructed Nix-

Ford had nothing to do with editing the transcripts. It wasn't Ford but Nixon who was responsible for the deletions.

Footnote: Timmons and Cook deny that they talked with Ford about killing the Patman investigation. We have been unable to get any comment from Nixon.

Inside The White House—The Watergate special prosecutor has now cleared President Ford of illegally pocketing or diverting any funds from the maritime unions. As additional ev-

2 in Congress Question Ford's View He Was Cleared on Watergate Link

By RICHARD L. MADDEN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26—The chairmen of the Congressional committees that recommended Gerald R. Ford's confirmation as Vice President in 1973 raised questions today about the President's contention that their committees had cleared him of allegations that he helped to block a 1972 House investigation of the Watergate break-in.

In separate telephone interviews, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, who is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Senator

into those tapes" if it had known about their existence at the time of Mr. Ford's confirmation.

"It certainly has to be said that the President's statement has to be accurate only as of that time [of the 1973 hearings]," Mr. Rodino said.

082

R. A. CZERYBYL

7PM-FORD-WATERGATE: 1ST ADD: 200

WASHINGTON: WATERGATE PROBE.

THE TIMES REPORTED THAT RODINO HAD TELEPHONED ITS WASHINGTON BUREAU TO SAY THAT HE WAS DISTURBED BY FORD'S COMMENT AND BY THE FACT THAT FORD WOULD NOT SAY HE WOULD TRY TO MAKE THE WHITE HOUSE TAPE RECORDINGS AVAILABLE TO RESOLVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MATTER.

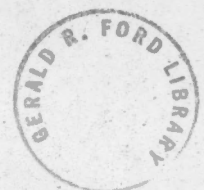
CANNON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT FORD'S COMMENT MADE HIM UNEASY AND THAT FORD SHOULD SEEK RELEASE OF THE TAPES "TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ONE WAY OR ANOTHER" WHETHER HE HAD ACTED IN CONCERT WITH THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE IN TRYING TO STIFLE THE WATERGATE PROBE.

DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE, FORD WAS ASKED ABOUT MAKING THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE TAPES AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION AND HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS FOR THE "PROPER AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE CONTROL OVER THE TAPES TO MAKE THAT DECISION."

THE TIMES QUOTED CANNON AS SAYING: "I WOULD HAVE FELT MUCH BETTER ABOUT THE PRESIDENT IF HE HAD SAID: 'WHILE I DON'T HAVE JURISDICTION, I WILL REQUEST THAT THEY BE MADE PUBLIC,' AND I AM SURE THEY WOULD BE IF HE ASKED FOR THEM."

THE NEWSPAPER SAID CANNON THEN ADDED: "I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT AT SOME TIME THE TAPES WILL COME OUT, AND IF IT TURNS OUT THAT MR. FORD WAS INVOLVED AT THE DIRECTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE, IT WOULD GIVE US ANOTHER WATERGATE COVER-UP."

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7PM-FORD-WATERGATE; 2 TAKES; 350-550

LOS ANGELES (AP) - THE DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMEN OF TWO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WERE QUOTED TODAY AS SAYING PRESIDENT FORD "MISLED THE PUBLIC" WHEN HE SAID HE HAD BEEN CLEARED BY THE COMMITTEES OF TRYING TO LIMIT AN EARLY WATERGATE INVESTIGATION.

ANSWERING NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS DURING THE THIRD PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE WITH DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE JIMMY CARTER, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD BEEN GIVEN A "CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH" BY THE TWO COMMITTEES DURING THE NOVEMBER 1973 CONFIRMATION HEARINGS ON HIS NOMINATION TO THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES QUOTED REP. PETER W. RODINO JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, AND SEN. HOWARD CANNON, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, AS SAYING THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER WAS MISLEADING BECAUSE IT "IGNORED" TWO PIECES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT BECAME AVAILABLE AFTER THE HEARINGS.

THE TIMES, IN ITS WEDNESDAY MORNING EDITIONS, SAID RODINO AND CANNON LISTED THOSE PIECES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS:

-A WHITE HOUSE TAPE OF A SEPT. 15, 1972 CONVERSATION IN WHICH PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON ORDERED HIS SUBORDINATES TO HAVE FORD LIMIT THE INVESTIGATION.

-FORMER NIXON AIDE JOHN W. DEAN'S RECENT STATEMENTS THAT NIXON WHITE HOUSE STAFFER DICK COOK HAD TALKED WITH FORD ABOUT TRYING TO LIMIT AN EARLY WATERGATE INVESTIGATION BY THE HOUSE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

COOK HAS DENIED EVER DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH FORD. AND ANOTHER NIXON AIDE, JOHN EHRLICHMAN, HAS SAID HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT ANY WHITE HOUSE STAFFER EVER CONTACTING FORD, WHO WAS HOUSE MINORITY LEADER AT THE TIME OF THAT EARLY COMMITTEE PROBE.

NBC NEWS REPORTED TUESDAY NIGHT THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DID NOT PLACE COOK UNDER OATH WHEN IT QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT DEAN'S STATEMENT.

IN WASHINGTON, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT HAVEL SAID COOK WAS INTERVIEWED BUT "I'M NOT GOING TO INTERPRET UNDER WHAT RULES."

HAVEL SAID THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS STANDING BY ATTY. GEN. EDWARD LEVI'S DECISION OCT. 20 AGAINST CONDUCTING A NEW INVESTIGATION OF WHETHER FORD LIED AT HIS VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CONFIRMATION HEARINGS WHEN HE SAID NO ONE ON NIXON'S STAFF CONTACTED HIM ABOUT BLOCKING THE BANKING COMMITTEE'S WATERGATE PROBE.

7MORE

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R W

AM-DASH 10-27

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD WOULD NEVER HAVE PARDONED RICHARD NIXON IF A STRONGER MAN THAN LEON JAWORSKI HAD BEEN SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, FORMER SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE COUNSEL SAM DASH SAYS.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY, DASH ALSO SAID FORD'S PARDON OF NIXON PROVED HE HAD "NO UNDERSTANDING" OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AND DEMOCRAT JIMMY CARTER HAS MADE A MISTAKE BY NOT EXPLOITING THE ISSUE.

DASH SAID FORD "REALLY HAS NO UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WATERGATE WAS ALL ABOUT ... ALMOST LIKE NIXON, HE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH WHAT WAS GOING ON."

THE NIXON PARDON "SPEAKS TO HIS COMPLETE INSENSITIVITY TO WATERGATE ISSUES."

DASH SAID FORD "WOULDN'T HAVE DARED PARDON NIXON" IF HE THOUGHT THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR WOULD PROTEST AND TAKE THE MATTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

"I'M SURE THAT WHEN FORD PARDONED NIXON, HE DID NOT THINK HE WOULD GET ANY KIND OF REACTION" FROM JAWORSKI, SAID DASH, WHO DESCRIBED THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR AS BONE-WEARY OF THE EVENTS OF WATERGATE.

DASH SAID DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARTER HAS BEEN POORLY ADVISED TO AVOID WATERGATE IN HIS CAMPAIGN.

"HE'S MADE A GREAT ERROR BY NOT EXPLOITING THIS ISSUE," DASH SAID. POST-WATERGATE MORALITY IN A SENSE CREATED CARTER, WHOSE CANDIDACY IS HEAVILY BASED ON THE TWIN CONCEPTS OF INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT AND A NEW BREATH OF LIFE IN WASHINGTON, HE SAID.

FORD, AS HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, PROBABLY WAS NEVER DIRECTLY CONTACTED BY PRESIDENT NIXON BEFORE HE SOUGHT TO BLOCK AN ORIGINAL CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF WATERGATE, DASH SPECULATED.

"HE WAS PROBABLY CONTACTED THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY, AND YOU WOULDN'T FIND THAT ON THE (WHITE HOUSE) TAPES," THE LAWYER SAID.

HE SAID FORMER WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN DEAN, WHO HAS ALLEGED THAT FORD ACTED AT WHITE HOUSE DIRECTION, "HAS RARELY SAID ANYTHING THAT WASN'T TRUE.... SO I THINK IT'S NOT UNLIKELY THAT ... SOMEBODY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE DID CONTACT JERRY FORD FOR HELP."

DASH SAID IT WOULD HAVE "DESTROYED FORD" HAD THE PRESIDENT CHOSEN SEN. HOWARD BAKER, R-TENN., A FORMER WATERGATE COMMITTEE MEMBER, AS HIS 1976 RUNNING MATE. "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FORD'S EAGLETON INCIDENT," HE SAID.

"SEN. BAKER WAS DECEPTIVE (DURING THE INVESTIGATION) BECAUSE HIS APPEARANCE PUBLICLY WAS THAT OF A SENATOR WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE," DASH SAID. "IN PRIVATE MEETINGS, HE OPPOSED PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING WE DID. HE CONTINUALLY TRIED TO SABOTAGE THE ACTIVITY OF THE INVESTIGATION."

DUPLICATE TO B-WIRE

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FORD/DOLE CAMPAIGNStrategy

Newsmen continued to ask him at each stop about his statements Democrats were to blame for past wars and his reversal on Tuesday when he specifically absolved Democrats of blame for World War II and Vietnam.

Reagan Won't Campaign in Three Key States

Ronald Reagan refused a request by President Ford's top election strategist to campaign on the President's behalf in three key states in the final days of the presidential race, Ford aides said Wednesday.

But a spokesman for the PFC said that James Baker had agreed it would be better for Reagan to devote most of his time between now and November 2 boosting the Republican cause in California.

Reagan, the committee spokesman said, already was committed to campaign appearances in several western states including Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Idaho in the next several days before returning to California for the campaign windup.
AP (10/27/76)

Watergate ProbeJustice Defends Action on Watergate Probe

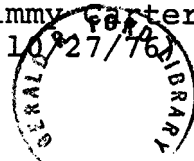
Justice Department officials Wednesday defended their claim of finding no justification to warrant further investigation of John Dean's charge that Gerald Ford tried to block an early congressional Watergate investigation.

Tuesday, NBC's Carl Stern reported that Justice did not sufficiently interview Dean, William Timmens or Richard Cook. Stern's report that the investigation was a cursory one angered Justice, NBC reported. (NBC) 10/27/76

Watergate Lawyer Blames Jaworski for Nixon Pardon

President Ford would never have pardoned Richard Nixon if a stronger man than Leon Jaworski had been special prosecutor, former Senate Watergate Committee Counsel Sam Dash said.

In an interview with Women's Wear Daily published Wednesday, Dash also said Ford's pardon of Nixon proved he had "no understanding" of the Watergate affair and Democrat Jimmy Carter had made a mistake by not exploiting the issue. (UPI 10/27/76)



10/27/76

FORD/DOLE CAMPAIGNStrategy

President Ford said Wednesday he has built up momentum--much like Harry Truman's 1948 campaign--and expects to win the presidential election next Tuesday.

Ford arrived in Atlantic City, N.J., from Chicago, and told reporters: "I think we've got lots of momentum. This is the same kind of momentum as one of my idols, Harry S. Truman, a Democrat, had in his campaign. We are going to surprise some people." (ABC)

Ford contrasted his administration with Richard Nixon's saying his is not an "imperial presidency. We don't have the ceremony and the pomp and the dictatorial attitude," he said. (NBC)

Ford said the "imperial presidency" does not conform with his personal ideas, nor with what "our founding fathers believe". (NBC)

Asked about John Dean's charge that he tried to block the first congressional Watergate investigation, Ford confirmed his faith in Attorney General Levi. "His decision fully and completely ends the matter," he said. (NBC)

Before a big crowd on Atlantic City's boardwalk, Ford hit Carter saying, "I think you, in the great state of New Jersey, know how risky it is when a candidate says one thing on the campaign trail and then does something else when he gets in public office in reference to taxes." (ABC)

Later, Ford flew to Villanova University in Pennsylvania, stressing his theme of trust.

Because Ford strategists believe voters are drawing comparisons between their boss and Nixon, they are making an effort to draw distinctive differences between the two, Marilyn Berger reported. (NBC)

The President got one unfriendly reminder of Nixon outside Villanova where a bystander flaunted a Nixon mask, Bob Schieffer reported. But for the most part, his advisors believe his Eastern swing is off to a good start. All the crowds have been large and overwhelmingly friendly, Schieffer added. (CBS)

Tom Jarriel said Ford's crowds of late have been large, and have shown contagious enthusiasm. But, he added, they are crowds in friendly Republican areas "which in themselves do not elect." (ABC)



Ford 'Ignored' Later Data In Statement on Watergate Inquiry, 2 Chairmen Say

BY JACK NELSON

Times Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON—The chairmen of the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Rules Committee said Tuesday that when President Ford stated that both committees had given him "a clean bill of health" on his role in limiting an early Watergate investigation, he "ignored" informa-

tion in 1973, when he appeared before both the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Rules Committee. The committees questioned him before confirming him as Nixon's vice presidential choice to succeed Spiro T. Agnew.

At that time Ford said he had "no recollection" of ever talking to anyone from the White House about the

matter. Reps. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) and Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.) said they conduct investigations to determine whether Ford had perjured himself when he explained his role in the banking committee matter during his confirmation hearings for Vice President. Levi cited lack of evidence of wrong-doing and Ruff has said that the matter did not fall



Focus on Ford ignored before, he says

Dean defends 'new' Watergate charge

By George Moneyhun
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

New York

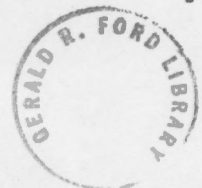
Former White House counsel John W. Dean III accuses the news media and the public of ignoring his initial allegations three years ago that President Ford was involved in the Watergate cover-up.

Mr. Dean said he has telephone logs with the times and dates of his conversations with Mr. Cook, in addition to "miscellaneous notes" that do not "directly corroborate my testimony" but do provide sufficient reminders of conversations for Mr. Dean to vigorously defend his recollection of them.

President Ford has repeatedly indicated that he answered all questions about his involvement with the Nixon administration during his 1973 vice-presidential confirmation hearings. He testified that he had no recollection of any such contacts with Mr. Cook.

*These dates as disclosed on NBC were Sept. 6, 7, 11, & 14;
Oct. 7, 6, 11 & 12, 1977

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Levi Failed to Quiz Two on Ford Role

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Justice Department conceded yesterday that Attorney General Edward H. Levi decided not to investigate President Ford's possible role in blocking a 1972 Watergate probe without questioning two key witnesses.

The department also admitted that a third witness, who was interviewed, had not been placed under oath.

On Oct. 20, Levi rejected a request from two House members, Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.) and John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.), for an investigation of charges by former White House Counsel John W. Dean III.

Dean charged in a television interview that in 1972 aides to President Nixon had contacted Ford, then the Republican leader in the House, about

blocking a Watergate investigation planned by the House Banking Committee. Among the White House staff members identified as contacting Ford were William Timmons and Richard Cook.

Ford subsequently said he stood by his testimony at his vice presidential confirmation hearings in which he said he could not recall any specific contacts about the committee probe with Timmons, Cook or other Nixon aides.

Yesterday, Carl Stern, NBC News legal correspondent, charged that Levi's decision not to investigate further "rested heavily" on denials by Timmons and Cook of Dean's charges. But, Stern added, Timmons was not questioned by the Justice Department.

"Cook was questioned but not under oath," Stern said. "And the department made no attempt to talk to Dean, who made the charge — nor did it ask to see supporting records he says he has."

In reply, Justice Department spokesman Robert J. Havel said Levi had never implied that the inquiry included detailed questioning of potential witnesses. In his Oct. 20 statement, Havel noted, Levi had made clear that Justice's purpose had been to examine facts and statements already on the record to determine whether a detailed new investigation of the charges against Ford was warranted.

In his statement, Levi specified that the Justice Department had studied the transcript of Dean's TV remarks,

See LEVI, A8, Col. 1