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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

[Oct. 1976?]

B.

Bill Stanton:

This is my recollection of the one and only time Ford ever had a meeting with the Minority Members of the B&C Cmte with respect to the Patman investigation: It was members of the Cmte who asked to meet with Ford. Ford did not request the meeting. The reason members wanted to meet with im, this was usual procedure when we were to take a position where other members of the minority (not members of the Cmte) might be affected by a minority Cmte action. I don't know who asked him, but ~~xxx~~ presume it was Bill Widnall. At the meeting Ford mostly sat, smoked his pipe and listened. The discussion went along the following line: If Patman limited probe just to laundered money in South America, the Cmte had no objection. The Cmte was ~~xx~~ adamantly opposed to unlimited use of subpoena power which gave the impression that it was a political witch hunt two days before adjournment of Congress and one month before election. Some members of the Cmte felt by simply not showing up, they would lack a quorum. It was them unanimously decided that if Patman asked for unlimited subpoena power, the members would vote no and at the same time ask Patman, if his probe were not political, to call the members back the day after the election and we would be glad to cooperate. Ford's only remarks were to concur with our decision that a month's delay made sense and that we were taking the right action. Wright Patman never accepted the minority members' challenge and never called a meeting. The best of my recollection ~~was~~ shortly after this instance, Senator Kennedy looked at the subject matter and decided not to call for an investigation basically because he felt it was not under the jurisdiction of his committee.

Mr. Dean, whatever he says in his book, speaks for himself. I know of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ ~~a~~ dozen highly respected present and former Members of Congress who will verify my statement. ||



Dean's Book, BLIND AMBITION

September 15, 1972: "The President recognized the gravity of this possibility.* He informed Haldeman that we would have to lean on Jerry Ford to block the hearings. 'This is the big play,' he observed intently. 'I'm getting into this thing, so that he, he's got to know that it comes from the top -- and that he's got to get at this, and screw this thing up while he can, right?'

"His subordinates agreed, and we discussed ways to enlist Ford's aid. When our orders had been made clear, business talk ended and the conversation again meandered." (p. 139)

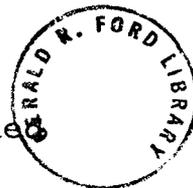
Succeeding days: "Herb Kalmbach called a few days after my meeting with the President . . . 'I'm coming to Washington, and I'd like to see you and LaRue.' . . . A few days after the Kalmbach ceremony [when me met Dean and LaRue in Washington to say he was through, Haldeman] invited me into his office for a chat . . . [and I said]:

" . . . I want to check with you about these Patman hearings. It's going to come to a head pretty soon. Patman's got to get his committee to vote him subpoena power, and it's a close question whether we have the votes to kill it. I've been talking to Bill Timmons* and Stans and Petersen on this thing, and Mitchell is working on it, too. We think we can give our guys a leg to stand on by telling them that an investigation will cause a lot of publicity that will jeopardize the defendants' rights in the Liddy trial. But that may not be enough. We really need to turn Patman off.

"'Call Connally,' said Haldeman. 'He may know some way to stop Patman. And tell Timmons to keep on Jerry Ford's ass. He knows he's got to produce on this one.'" (pp. 141-2)

*The possibility that Maurice Stans would be called before the Patman Committee.

**William E. Timmons was the new chief of White House liaison with Congress."



[CONNALLY]:

" . . . I believe I can think of something. I understand from the grapevine down in Texas that Patman might have a couple of weak spots, and one of them is he might have some campaign contributions he would not want exposed. Now, I believe I heard the Congressman received some contributions from an oil lobbyist up here. I don't believe Mr. Patman has reported them either.'

" 'That's interesting,' I said. Connally was not a man who needed to be led by the nose. 'Do you have any idea how we might establish that for the record?'

" 'No, John, I don't believe I can help you there,' he said, obviously not wanting to carry the matter further himself. 'Why don't you just check into that and see what you come up with?'" (p. 142)

"Timmons who met regularly with Jerry Ford, had explored with him Connally's suggestions about Patman. . . . 'Well, how does your head count look?' . . . [Said Timmons]: 'It's gonna be close, but I think we can pull it off. Jerry and Dick Cook [Timmons' aide] tell me they're sure every one of the Republicans are lined up. They're gonna march them into the committee room like cattle, all together. Nobody's gonna be off playing golf that day. . . .' (p. 143)

"More arm-twisting and back-room politics and Timmons reported we were safe. On October 3, the Banking and Currency Committee voted 20-15 to deny Chairman Patman subpoena power for his Watergate investigation." (p. 144)

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From: PWB

[Oct. 1976?]

Attached is copy of memo of Nov. 27, 1973 from Bob Trainer of the House Judiciary Committee staff to Chairman Rodino.

This memo makes it clear that President in testimony before the Senate Committee answered Byrd's question as to his recall of any conversations that would indicate that the White House wanted him to lend his efforts as leader to blocking the Patman Committee investigation. The President's answer was categorically no as to talks with President Nixon, Holdeman, Ehrlichman, Dean. It was as to Timmons or someone in the Legislative Liaison Office: "I do not recall any conversations concerning this particular matter."¹

In the President's answers to Heltzman's testimony, he stated he met with minority members of the Patman at their request.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 11/26/73

TO: Honorable Gerald Ford

FROM: WILLIAM TIMMONS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION X

FOR YOUR COMMENTS _____

FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING _____

OTHER *and file*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 26, 1973

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with a request from counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, I am submitting an affidavit which you may want to include in the record of proceedings relative to the hearings on the nomination of Honorable Gerald R. Ford to be Vice President of the United States.

With cordial regard,

Sincerely,

William E. Timmons

William E. Timmons
Assistant to the President

Honorable Peter Rodino
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515



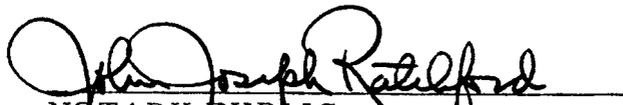
WASHINGTON :
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AFFIDAVIT

I, WILLIAM E. TIMMONS, being duly sworn according to law, do hereby swear and affirm that during the Fall of 1972 I had no communications, written or oral, with Rep. Gerald R. Ford in regard to any proposal or intention of the Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives to conduct an investigation and/or hold hearings on the Watergate break-in and related issues.


WILLIAM E. TIMMONS

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 26th day of
November, 1973.


NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires May 31, 1978



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1976

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB HARTMANN

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *T.*

Attached is a copy of a letter from Garry Brown's office about which Jack Marsh talked to you.

It appears that Graham Northrop on the Minority Staff of the House Banking and Currency Committee is the author.

Please give me your comments.

Attachment

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Determined to be an administrative marking
Classified per E.O. 12958, Sec. 1.3 and
Archived pursuant to March 16, 1983

By KL NARS date 8/5/88



H

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hand delivered
4:35 p.m.

September 28, 1972

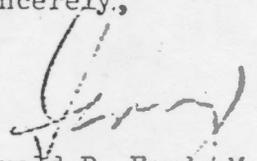
Hon. Garry E. Brown
404 Cannon H.O.B.

Dear Garry:

As you know, the House Banking and Currency Committee will meet at 10 o'clock on Tuesday, October 3 to consider an investigation of the Watergate affair. This is a matter of utmost importance, and I urge you to be present at this meeting.

Obviously, we desire to see those who have been involved in illegal activities brought to justice, but at the same time we must be careful not to impinge on the constitutional rights of those who have been indicted by reckless or irresponsible investigations motivated by political considerations. Because of the political overtones of this matter I think it would be imperative for all Republican members to be present at the Committee meeting to assure that the investigative resolution is appropriately drawn.

Sincerely,



Gerald R. Ford, M.C.



UP-018

(JOHN DEAN)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- JOHN DEAN TODAY CONTRADICTED 1973 CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY GERALD FORD THAT HE DID NOT RECALL AIDING ANY ATTEMPT BY THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE TO STAVE OFF A WATERGATE INVESTIGATION.

FORD, WHEN HE WAS HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER, TOLD VICE PRESIDENTIAL CONFIRMATION HEARINGS THAT "TO THE BEST OF MY RECOLLECTION," HE DID NOT DISCUSS ANY ATTEMPT TO DAM UP THE WATERGATE AFFAIR WITH ANY NIXON STAFFERS.

DEAN, THE FORMER AIDE TO PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON WHOSE MEMORY AND TESTIMONY RESULTED IN NIXON'S POLITICAL FALL AND RESIGNATION, CONTRADICTED FORD IN A TAPED INTERVIEW BROADCAST ON THE NBC TODAY TELEVISION PROGRAM.

DEAN SAID NIXON STAFF MEMBER RICHARD COOK HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH FORD MORE THAN A HALF DOZEN TIMES AND FORD AT ONE POINT INDICATED HE WOULD TELL REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE "WHAT THEY SHOULD DO ON THE DAY OF THE VOTE." (DEAN'S WORDS) ON WHETHER OR NOT TO LOOK INTO THE WATERGATE CASE.

BUT IN A STATEMENT TO NBC, COOK DENIED DEAN'S ALLEGATIONS, ACCUSING DEAN OF "VICIOUS LIES AND CLEVER DISTORTIONS."

"THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE TRUTH," SAID COOK, WHO NOW WORKS FOR AN AIRCRAFT COMPANY. HE DENIED CONTACTING FORD "DESPITE JOHN DEAN'S REPEATED AND FRANTIC REQUESTS" TO GET HIM TO DO SO.

DEAN SAID HE PASSED HIS OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH COOK ABOUT FORD ALONG TO TOP NIXON AIDE H.R. HALDEMAN, WHO, IN TURN, DISCUSSED THEM WITH NIXON.

"COOK WAS THE MAN WHO DID THE LEG WORK AND DEALT WITH MR. FORD AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE (BANKING) COMMITTEE" WHICH WAS CONSIDERING PROBING AT LEAST ONE ASPECT OF THE WATERGATE INVESTIGATION, SAID DEAN.

"I CAN RECALL DICK COMING BACK AND TELLING, FOR EXAMPLE, HOW JERRY WAS GOING TO CALL A MEETING OF THE MINORITY MEMBERS IN LES ARENDS' (FORMER REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN FROM ILLINOIS) OFFICE OFF THE HOUSE FLOOR 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," SAID DEAN.

DID THAT MEAN THEY SHOULD BLOCK THOSE HEARINGS FROM GOING FORWARD DEAN WAS ASKED.

"THAT'S CORRECT," HE REPLIED.

UPI 10-13 09:28 AED



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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.



SUMMARY OF JOHN DEAN'S
OCTOBER 13, 1976, INTERVIEW ON NBC'S TODAY SHOW

With the exception of one detail, there is nothing new in John Dean's interview. Dean restates his view that then Minority Leader Ford cooperated with the White House and acted to block Patman's proposed investigation into the laundering of Republican Campaign funds through Mexico.

Earlier Dean had asserted that Timmons conveyed the White House's wishes to Ford. Timmons has denied this, and in his interview, Dean has changed his story and apparently now agrees with Timmons. In his new version, Dean says that Dick Cook, one of Timmons' assistants, acted as the conduit. In a statement released today, Cook categorically denies Dean's latest story. Cook said "...I never spoke with Mr. Ford about the need to deny Mr. Patman's request for subpoena power."

Cook's statement receives support from Congressman Garry E. Brown's statement to the Ervin Committee. Brown said that his only contacts with the White House were insignificant contacts with Cook who had merely inquired about how things were going and whether those who opposed Patman's hearings would be successful.

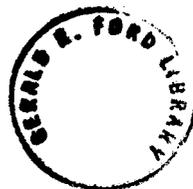
Thus, Dean's latest interview appears to raise no new issues.

Buchen, Hartmann, Marsh, and Schmults all agree that if any statement is issued, you should limit yourself to the attached answer.



Q. What comment do you have on the John Dean interview this morning on the Today Show?

A. The President has already testified to this matter under oath in the confirmation process before committees of both the House and the Senate. There is nothing to be added to what he has already said.



TODAY SHOW

JOHN DEAN INTERVIEW

TOM BROKAW: If ever there was a contemporary author in America, who needs no introduction, it is John Dean who was counsel to President Nixon, a man who served him during the Watergate coverup, who subsequently testified against him, and in fact, served time in prison, as a result of his own role in Watergate.

He is now the author of a book called "Blind Ambition", a book about the Watergate coverup, about the atmosphere in the White House at the time.

Mr. Dean is with us here on "Today" this morning, with Carl Stern, NBC News Correspondent, who covers the Justice Department for us on a regular basis, and covered, gave much of his life, in fact to the coverage of Watergate.

Mr. Dean, first of all, there are some new developments in this book. You describe how President Nixon first raised the possibility of blocking the initial Congressional investigation, or initial Congressional hearings into Watergate, hearings that Congressman Wright Patman of Texas wanted to call, and he raises the possibility of using Jerry Ford, who was then House Minority Leader, to block those hearings.

Did the White House think of Gerald Ford as a stooge?

JOHN DEAN: I don't think a stooge is the right word. They certainly thought of Jerry Ford as somebody who would do their bidding, when it needed to be done; and with the Patman



hearings, it was something that concerned all of us at that stage of the coverup very much, and as you will recall from the book, the President says that he wants Ford to get in, and do his part to block those very untimely hearings at the time.

BROKAW: One of the ways which you had hoped to put pressure on Patman was to detail some questionable campaign contributions that he may have received, and when you had a discussion about this with Bill Timmons, who was then heading up the Congressional liaison from the White House, he said: That's a sensitive point, because Ford may have some problems in that area as well.

What were the problems that Gerald Ford may have had, in campaign contributions?

DEAN: Bill did not elaborate at the time. He knew that I had sent one of the lawyers from the re-election committee to check the records of the members of the Patman committee; and I had those, in fact the day I was in the office, talking with Bill about this; and he said that, John, he said, I don't think this is a very good idea, because some of our guys, and Jerry, may have some problems along this line; so he said don't raise it; and I agreed.

CARL STERN: Perhaps the most disturbing matter raised, though, in your discussion in the book about Gerald Ford, and the efforts made to derail the Patman hearings in October of 1972 is the thought that Mr. Ford did have very intimate



contact with White House staff people, in planning precisely how to do this. Now, Mr. Ford testified during his own confirmation hearings that he didn't have any such contact, or at least, he didn't recall any. Did Mr. Ford tell the truth about that?

DEAN: Well, I don't recall, Carl, precisely what Mr. Ford said at the time of his confirmation hearings to become Vice President. All I'm recalling are the facts as I remember them, and I remember very clearly that Bill Timmons told me on a number of occasions how he was working with Mr. Ford, and Mr. Ford was doing his part, after the White House started that initiative.

STERN: Timmons has denied having had any contact with Ford. Who had contact with Ford?

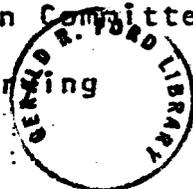
DEAN: Well, I don't necessary say it was Timmons himself that was having the contact. But somebody on his staff--

STERN: Who?

DEAN: --and it was Dick Cook, the man who had once worked with the Patman Committee, before he had later joined the White House--with the individuals.

STERN: How do you know that?

DEAN: Well, I talked to Dick about it. It came up in Presidential conversation that Dick was a man who had been working on it. Bill Timmons, as you'll recall at the time was on the witness list as one who would be called before the Patman Committee. So Bill was very sensitive about his own involvement in trying to block the hearings. Dick Cook was the man who did the



legwork, and dealt with Mr. Ford, and the other members of the Committee.

STERN: Did he report back as to any of his conversations with Gerald Ford?

DEAN: To me, or to the White--

STERN: To any meeting that you were present at?

DEAN: Well, of course. Yes.

STERN: Give me an example.

DEAN: Well, I can recall Dick coming back, and telling, for example, how Jerry was going to call a meeting of the minority members in Les Aaron's office, off the House floor, 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.

STERN: And what should they do? They should block those hearings from going forward?

DEAN: That's correct.

BROKAW: Well, now, let me read you, if I may, Tom, what the transcript of the Ford confirmation hearings said. I won't read the whole thing. But the question is from Senator Byrd.

"Were you in contact with anyone at the White House during the period of August to October, 1972, concerning the Patman Committee's possible investigation of the Watergate break-in? Answer, Mr. Ford: Not to my best recollection."

Do you think Mr. Ford would have recalled that? Is that likely, that he wouldn't have recalled it?



DEAN: I would be surprised, if he didn't recall it. He knew Dick Cook from a number of years. He knew Dick Cook worked at the White House. I would be very surprised, if he didn't know the White House's interest, in not having those hearings go forward.

STERN: So, do you believe that Mr. Ford did not tell the truth, when he said to this committee under oath, that he did not recall any such contact?

DEAN: I believe not recollecting is a very safe answer for him.

STERN: My question is: Do you believe he lied?

DEAN: I don't want to say that. I'll stand on the facts, as I know them.

BROKAW: And what are the facts, as you know them, about the extent of Gerald Ford's knowledge of what had happened during Watergate? Did he perceive this as only a political problem, probably embarrassing to the White House, or did he understand the real nature of what was going on, what you were attempting to do?

DEAN: Well, I don't think that anybody had briefed Mr. Ford, or Mr. Ford had any intimate knowledge as to what was going on. I think it was very clear that the White House didn't want this investigation going on, just before an election. I think that anybody who was in Washington during the days of Watergate and the cover-up didn't need much to know that



something wrong had gone on, and there were efforts to keep it quiet, but I don't know of any specific briefings that Mr. Ford was given; certainly I didn't give him any, nor do I know of Timmons, or Cook, or anybody else giving him any.

BROKAW: This business about Gerald Ford possibly having some problems in the campaign contribution area has now received some attention. It's well known as well that the Special Prosecutor has been looking into campaign contribution areas in President Ford's political background. Has anyone from the Special Prosecutor's Office talked to you?

DEAN: No. They have not.

BROKAW: Have you volunteered any information to them?

DEAN: No. I have not.

BROKAW: Of any kind.

STERN: If Mr. Ford did not tell the truth in this matter, concerning the contact with the White House, and I don't want to harp on that, but it's an awfully important point. It's perhaps the most important point that emerged from the confirmation proceedings from Mr. Ford. If he didn't tell the whole truth on that occasion, that's a pretty big matter.

DEAN: Yes, indeed, it is.

STERN: So I want you to understand what you're saying to us here. It's important.

DEAN: Well, I'm reporting the facts, and they're reported in my book, just as the way they happened, the way I recall very vividly them happening, during those days.



STERN: Mr. Ford was about the last of the major Republican figures to stick with Mr. Nixon in 1974. Why do you think that was so?

I mean, two weeks before the resignation, he was still saying Mr. Nixon was innocent, will be proved so.

DEAN: Well, he was then Vice President, as you recall, and it seems that was a rather natural thing for a man's Vice President to do, would be to stay with his President; and I would think that would be more a political explanation than anything as to involvement, or intimate knowledge, or anything of that nature, Carl.

BROKAW: Can you think of any other role that Gerald Ford may have played in behalf of the White House, during the course of Watergate, apart from this attempt to block the Wright Patman investigation?

DEAN: Not to my knowledge. It's possible that came up in leadership meetings, when Mr. Ford was still the minority leader in the House, and was asked questions about what's the impact of the politics of Watergate having on the Congress, and things of that nature. But specific roles? This was one that came up, and as I report in the book, and is on a tape. The President wanted Mr. Ford to get involved, and to help to stop those hearings.

BROKAW: And there was no question that somebody did make contact with him, and that he did subsequently have meetings in an effort to block the Patman hearing?



DEAN: There's no question in my mind, Tom.

BROKAW: John Dean, author of a new book called "Blind Ambition."

Thank you very much.

END OF FIRST DAY INTERVIEW

BROKAW: John Dean, one of the principal figures in Watergate, the man who testified against Richard Nixon, after serving him as counsel, and subsequently served time himself, now the author of a book called "Blind Ambition".

We're here on "Today" this morning with Carl Stern and Mr. Dean to talk about some of his reflections on the time that he served, not in prison, so much as he served in the White House as counsel to the President.

Do you think that had there not been a John Dean, had you not come forward, in the fashion that you subsequently were forced to come forward, that the country would have found out about Watergate in any event?

DEAN: Tom, I don't really know. It's a tough question. It's a, you know, 'what if' question, and it's hard to say. I think that much might have come out in some time. I'm not sure it would have come out, as quickly as it did, maybe not as completely, as it did. But I really can't, I can't give you a good, crystal ball answer on that one.

STERN: In the book, even for those who followed Watergate closely, there are things in here that I never knew before;



There are countless lies and only one fact in Mr. Dean's statement.

Since the original Watergate hearings, at no time has Mr. Dean or anyone else ever hinted that I played such a role in connection with the Patman investigation. Nor have I ever been questioned by the several Watergate investigative Committees or the Special Prosecutor. Now in order to sell books, he has remembered something that he has never before chosen to recite. My family and I deeply resent this cheap huckstering at our expense.

Specifically, the one fact that rings true is that John Dean was the only person who ever suggested that I communicate with the then Minority Leader of the House, Gerald Ford. Former President Nixon never did. Haldeman never did. Ehrlichman did not. Bill Timmons never did. 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. With the gift of his own testimony and hindsight, I now know why John Dean was so worried, for he has admitted to being present at planning meetings that led to the Watergate break-in.

Moreover, anyone who knew Mr. Ford and his style of leadership as House Minority Leader would agree that such intrusion by the White House would have been most unwelcome and shunned. Even on political issues -- which the Patman hearings were thought to be at the time -- Mr. Ford would have deeply resented suggestions that he assert his dominance over the ranking Minority Member of a standing Committee at a President's request.

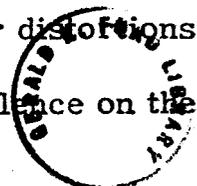


If there is one single reason why the late Chairman Patman was denied his subpoena authority by a bipartisan majority of his own committee it is because John Dean lied to me in the presence of witnesses.

In August or September, 1972, when it appeared that Chairman Patman was serious in his pursuit of the funding of the Watergate break-in, virtually everyone in Washington thought his action was politically motivated. I shared that opinion, but having been employed by the Banking Committee for the five years 1964-1969, I had a high respect for his investigative staff. For that reason, I asked two Minority staff members of the Committee to join me in a private meeting in the Executive Office Building with John Dean and Maurice Stans. At the outset of that one-hour meeting I asked Dean and Stans, "Is there any substance whatsoever to Mr. Patman's charges?" Dean assured us that there was none. He lied to me. He lied to two former colleagues of mine who were and are universally trusted by Democrats and Republicans alike in the Congress.

From that day forward, despite Mr. Dean's frantic pleas, I stayed in contact with just two people, one staff man and a Republican member of the Committee -- and then only to check on the status and schedule of the Committee deliberations. At the time, I had far more important legislative matters to attend to, as strange as that may seem today.

But there is no need to take my word for it. All the press has to do, or the Congress for that matter, is to interrogate or seek sworn testimony from some 40 or 50 members and staff of the House Banking and Currency Committee. Surely, even John Dean's vicious lies and clever distortions would be hard pressed to explain a four-year conspiracy of silence on the



charge Gerald Ford prevented a full investigation by the House Committee on Banking and Currency. If that's not good enough, then we should ask the members and staffs of the Ervin Subcommittee, together with the Rodino and Eastland Committees, what their investigations of the Patman episode revealed. It seems to me that should settle once and for all that Mr. Dean has lied.

After all of that, if the public still believes John Dean over the word of three Committees of the Congress, then he has brought off the stunt of the century.

The key question remains: is John Dean telling the truth when he insinuates that President Ford distorted the truth under oath before the Judiciary Committees of the Senate and House?

There is no question in my mind that the President told the truth. And several score Democratic and Republican members of Congress and staff, I am confident, would confirm this.



Thursday 10/14/76

1:40 Ruth said she has nothing in the Vice President's files that have been given to her...on what you're seeking.

Everything concerning the Vice President's hearings would be with Hartmann.

Do you want Ruth to ask Gayle for the material?

Or will you ask Gayle?



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 14, 1976

TO MR. BUCHEN

FROM Ruth Kilmer
mk

At 10:30 a.m. I received a return call from Bill McNitt at the U/M archives. He has located the file on the September 28, 1972 mailing you asked about.

The file does not indicate to whom any of the letters will go, but it does have a draft, dated September 27, on which in a corner Mr. Ford wrote: "O.K. When do they want it sent out?"

At the bottom of the draft page is a notation: Mr. Northrup 2258

(Mr. Graham Northrup was one of the minority counsels, under Orm Fink, in the B/C Committee, and his telephone extension was 2258 -- according to Dottie Cavanaugh's personal Hill phone directory.)

As to the 2-page November 5, 1973 letter from Garry Brown, Mr. McNitt reminded me that the cut-off date for congressional files was 10-12-73. Will now search in the VP files in the next building.



WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE
United States Department of Justice
315 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

October 15, 1976

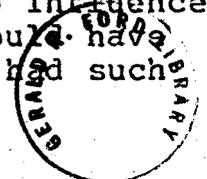
Honorable Elizabeth Holtzman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman:

This is in reply to your letters of October 8 and October 13, 1976.

You inquire whether this Office has either obtained tapes of conversations or sought other testimony concerning "the obstruction of justice involved in blocking [the Banking and Currency Committee] investigation" during the fall of 1972 and, particularly, concerning the role played by then-Minority Leader Ford "in the effort to stop the...investigation." In response, I can tell you that those members of the staff responsible for the investigation of the "Watergate cover-up" did give some consideration to the implications of White House efforts to prevent the issuance of subpoenas by the Committee. They determined, however, that there was insufficient likelihood that political and legislative efforts to influence the votes of the members of the Committee could be established to be "corrupt" (18 U.S.C. 1503 and 1505) attempts to obstruct justice so as to justify further pursuit of that inquiry. For that reason, no effort was made to obtain presidential tapes directed specifically at the issue of the Committee's investigation, although, as you are aware, the tape of September 15, 1972, obtained in connection with the general Watergate investigation, is relevant to that issue.

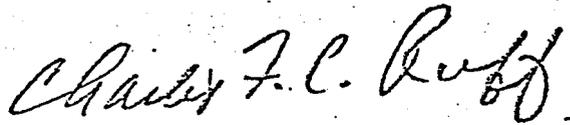
Without commenting on any specific factual situation, I should point out, as I am sure you are aware, that an obstruction of justice is not established merely by proof that one or more individuals took steps directed toward a goal sought by those who did have an intent corruptly to influence judicial or legislative procedures. The offense would have been committed only if such individuals themselves had such



criminal intent. In my judgment, neither the information previously available nor the information recently made public warrants renewed investigation by this Office into the activities of those who were involved in efforts to influence the legislative judgment of the Members of the House who served on the Banking and Currency Committee.

To the extent that the thrust of your inquiry is directed at the questions which have arisen concerning the accuracy of President Ford's testimony at the time of his confirmation hearings in 1973, I would suggest that any possible offense involved in that testimony would not be within the jurisdiction of this Office, but would, rather, fall within the general authority of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,



CHARLES F. C. RUFF
Special Prosecutor



WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE
United States Department of Justice
315 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

October 15, 1976

Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman:

This is in reply to your letter of October 8, 1976, in which you request this Office "to investigate the efforts to block and obstruct Congressional inquiry into Watergate crimes -- in particular, past and current allegations that the then Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Gerald R. Ford, acted under White House directives to block an investigation by the House Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing...."

Without commenting on any specific factual situation, I should point out, as I am sure you are aware, that action by any person which may serve the purposes of others who have the intent "corruptly" (18 U.S.C. 1503 and 1505) to influence judicial or legislative proceedings does not, in and of itself, establish an obstruction of justice. An offense would have been committed only if the person who so acted himself had such criminal intent. In my judgment, neither the information previously available nor recent statements concerning White House efforts to block the Patman Committee's investigation in the fall of 1972 would justify this Office's initiation of an investigation into attempts by any individuals to influence the political and legislative judgment of the Members of the House who served on that Committee. I must, therefore, decline your request to seek access to the presidential tapes for the September 1972-May 1973 period.

With respect to that portion of your letter in which you note discrepancies in President Ford's testimony



confirmation hearings in 1973, I must advise you that any offense which might be involved in that testimony would not be within the jurisdiction of this Office, but would, rather, be a matter within the general authority of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

Charles F. C. Ruff

CHARLES F. C. RUFF
Special Prosecutor



WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE

United States Department of Justice

315 9th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 15, 1976

Honorable Elizabeth Holtzman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman:

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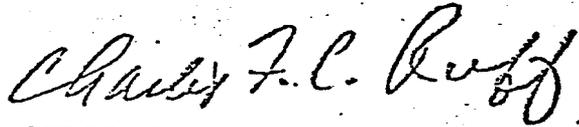
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CHARLES F. C. RUFF
Special Prosecutor



WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE

United States Department of Justice

315 9th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 15, 1976

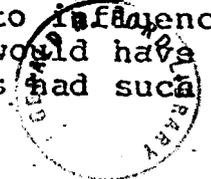
Honorable Elizabeth Holtzman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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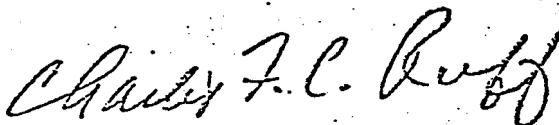
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Sincerely,



CHARLES F. C. RUFF
Special Prosecutor



7
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Max Friedersdorf -

For appropriate handling. Copy given
to Phil Buchen.

Jim Connor
10/22/76

Eval -

Nancy Kennedy
took a copy said
Mr Buchen should
have original. Truly



ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN
16TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

BROOKLYN OFFICE:
1452 FLATBUSH AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11210
PHONE (212) 859-9111

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1027 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE (202) 225-6616

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMISSION ON
INFORMATION AND FACILITIES
CHAIRWOMAN—TASK
FORCE ON FACILITIES AND
SPACE UTILIZATION

October 21, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, Attorney General Levi has refused to ask the Special Prosecutor to conduct an investigation into the accuracy of your testimony, during the Vice Presidential confirmation hearings, about the role you played in blocking the House Banking and Currency Committee's 1972 investigation of Watergate. As a result, the questions of whether you acted to block that investigation at the behest of the White House, and whether you testified truthfully before the House Judiciary and Senate Rules Committees remain unanswered.

The only way in which these questions can now be resolved is if you, as the Attorney General's superior, direct him to request an investigation by the Special Prosecutor.

While I can fully appreciate the reluctance of a President -- or any other person -- to order an investigation of his own actions, you have promised to run an open and candid administration which claims to respect rather than fear the truth. Your action to authorize an investigation would help reassure the public that you do not wish to be part of a cover-up.

An investigation into this matter is clearly justified. The reasons include:

1. Contradictions in your own testimony during the original hearings about whether you discussed blocking the Patman investigation with William Timmons.
2. Contradictions between your testimony and Mr. Timmons' affidavit of 1973.



3. The September 15, 1972 tape transcript in which Richard Nixon ordered his staff to have you take the "lead" in blocking the investigations, and in which Richard Cook is named as the contact with you.

4. The statements by John Dean that both Cook and Timmons reported to him conversations with you about blocking the Patman investigation.

5. The leading role you played -- taking the approach suggested in the September 15th tape -- in blocking the Patman investigation.

6. Despite recent questions, your own refusal specifically to deny Dean's allegations that you spoke with Cook and Timmons about blocking the Patman investigation.

In light of these circumstances, grave and substantial questions exist as to the accuracy of your testimony during the confirmation hearings. I therefore requested that the Attorney General ask the Special Prosecutor to conduct an investigation which would include (1) questioning Dean, Cook and Timmons under oath and (2) listening to relevant White House tapes.

The Attorney General has concluded that there is "no credible evidence" to justify an investigation. In order to have reached this conclusion, however, he would have had to determine that:

*John Dean, whose credibility has been demonstrated time and time again throughout the course of the Watergate and impeachment proceedings, is lying -- and was lying when he first identified Cook and Timmons as the contacts three years ago, under oath, before the Ervin Committee.

*Timmons and Cook, who apparently were never questioned or cross-examined under oath, are telling the truth. (Cook was most recently reported saying "I can't categorically deny I didn't tell John Dean I had talked to Ford. Dean might have a memo of the conversation. I can't remember that well.")

*Even though President Nixon ordered his staff to get you to play a key role in blocking the Patman Committee



investigation, his staff disobeyed these orders, and you played the key role Nixon requested purely by coincidence.

*Your recent refusal to deny that you spoke with Cook is irrelevant.

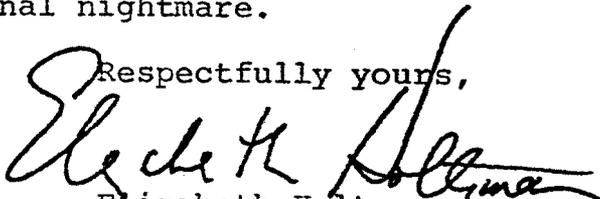
For the Attorney General to accept all of these propositions without an investigation clearly flies in the face of common sense and logic. Mr. Levi's conclusions therefore can only be explained by an unwillingness to have the truth revealed.

If there is nothing to hide, however, you have no reason to be afraid of what an investigation would disclose. If Timmons and Cook never spoke with you about blocking the Banking and Currency Committee investigation, then you have no reason to be afraid of having them questioned under oath. If the White House tapes will show your innocence, then you have no reason to be afraid of having them heard.

I therefore most respectfully request that you direct the Attorney General to ask the Special Prosecutor to undertake an immediate and thorough investigation of these questions. Such an investigation can be concluded promptly. In the interest of protecting your own good name and of reassuring the American people of the integrity of their government you should, therefore, act quickly and affirmatively.

Since at this time you alone have the power to compel an investigation, your failure to order one will, as a practical matter, ensure that the full truth will remain hidden until after the election. Mr. President, we cannot endure another long national nightmare.

Respectfully yours,


Elizabeth Holtzman
Member of Congress



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 21, 1976

TO: PHILIP W. BUCHEN

FROM: SUSAN D. YOWELL *sy*

Margaret Earl asked that I forward a copy of this pool report directly to you.

I am also attaching a copy of the passenger manifest which lists the members of the press who were on the flight.



At about 11 p.m. EDT, the President came back to the press compartment, and stood at the center table, with Ron Nessen.

Nessen said all ~~that~~ said would be embargoed for 6:30 p.m. Sunday. The President was in shirtsleeves, holding a drink. He shook hands with the newsmen present and at the suggestion of one of the photographers placed the drink down on the table while he talked and was photographed.

He said he might sleep in in the morning and skip church, that he still has a little cold and would probably play golf in the afternoon with Lee Elder, Les Arends and someone else. (This graph not embargoed).

He said he enjoyed this kind of day but wouldn't want to do it everyday.

On Mexican trip, said they would discuss drugs, immigration, oil, seven or eight other matters.

Asked about political prospects at places visited today. Said in S.C. ~~the odds are in favor of the Democrats~~ "we have a chance of winning the governorship," and he cited the troubles between Ravenel and Dorn on the Democratic side as a factor favoring the Republican's chances. He called Marshall Parker a favorite and said Len Phillips had a 50-50 chance. Said Ritchie in Greensboro probably behind. Said hoped could pick up "one, maybe two" in S.C., one in N.C., would help offset "other places where we might not do as well." Said he thought Snyder and Carter would win in Ky. Cook has been behind and Cook told him he thinks he's gaining but admittedly will be a tough contest.

Asked about risking his presidential prestige on such trips, he said "if I ~~didn't do anything and we lose~~ don't do anything and we lose, Republicans in the House would say, he didn't even try." "At least I tried, and if the results are better than the polls ~~indicate~~ say...." "I think I spend enough time in the Oval office to get the work done." "I have enough time to decide what's right and what's wrong."

On net gains and losses this fall: "I'll tell you better in a week." Said got feel from trip to Midwest "things are not as pessimistic as some of the polls would lead you to believe." People he talked to were ~~not~~ pretty realistic.

On Boston desegregation: "What ~~was~~ done by the Governor apparently eased the situation. I don't think us sending in the 82nd Airborne Division would have done any good." "We followed the right decision. It seemed to work." Said some thought federal intervention was needed. National Guard did a good job, despite some criticism, Guard ~~was~~ seemed to have a "high degree of capability. It was well trained and well equipped to meet any emergency, which made it easier for me." Asked about the long-range solution on a situation like Boston, he said "That's ~~for~~ the judge to decide. He's made the order. He has to do



what he thinks is right under the decisions of the Supreme Court."

Asked if any conservative Republicans had asked him to withdraw the Rockefeller nomination, "I wouldn't say anybody seriously."

"I'm still convinced he would ~~have~~ make a good Vice President."

Asked whether Rockefeller's difficulties stemmed from the post-Watergate morality, he said he saw no connection. "Watergate was a coverup. Everything that's come out about Nelson Rockefeller has been ~~it~~ open."

"It's a pretty stringent standard. I ought to know.... One can't hear but wonder how many people on either side of the aisle can undergo this kind of scrutiny. It's pretty rugged." "I know how he feels. I had the same delay."

Asked about whether any special briefings for the Speaker, said hasn't talked to Speaker, special briefings available though. Air Force Two has been made available to him and Pres. said he understands he's going to use it in the campaign, and Democrats would pay for campaign use.

Asked if lack of VP would affect trip to Japan, "I wouldn't think so." Said he expected Rockefeller would be confirmed by then.

Asked if disappointed by reaction of crowds to his economic pitch, said "~~Encouraged~~" "I've really been encouraged. Reaction has been good." "Certainly the attendance... ~~they~~ when you look at the numbers they weren't staying away. I was encouraged. I loved those crowds."

On his testimony on the pardon, would Congress be satisfied? "I don't know, but Congress had its opportunity and I really believe I answered any questions... I certainly answered anything they asked." "Would it satisfy them? "I would hope it has. I don't know what more they would want to know."

Asked about Rep. Holtzman's aggressive questioning. Said he wished would have had an opportunity ~~to~~ to answer more, ~~that~~ "She didn't ask ~~it~~ them, just recited the. I would have been delighted to answer any of the others if I had time." He said he had to answer one question ~~it~~ even if he had to interrupt her (presumably on no deal) but didn't want to be rude and interrupt her on the others. Asked one of Holtzman's questions, whether he would be willing to make available to public the tapes of conversations between Nixon and himself, ~~how~~ assuming only there would be no problem with the special prosecutor, he said "I would be delighted to." Asked about Jaworski successor, said it was primary responsibility of AG, "I've received no recommendation or name."

Asked about cabinet changes: "I haven't told anybody on my staff about cabinet changes." Said doesn't know who is spreading reports, but "either somebody outside who alleges they're influential" or lower echelon staffer." Of some of the reports: "They're so way out they don't make any sense. With all respect to the source on some of these stories, they must be way down in the bowels of the White House or self-appointed...."



Pool report — 3

Asked about Rumsfeld in cabinet, said Rumsfeld doing an excellent job where he is. Said he hasn't told any of his senior staff ~~of~~ on cabinet changes. He kept saying that he hadn't told them, leaving the impression with us that he was considering changes. We asked whether he would bypass the senior staff and tell us, and he laughed.

Then a small white princess phone with a red light at the window ~~xi~~ side of the table rang, and the red light went on. A reporter picked it up and handed it across to the President. He said, "Hello? Mr. Nessen." And handed the phone to the purple-shirted press secy. And walked back front to his compartment.

~~###~~
~~###~~

Witcover
Cormier
Folsom
Hager
Lambro



PASSENGER MANIFEST

AIR FORCE ONE 27000
MISSION 1135FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Louisville, KY to Andrews AFB, Washington DC

19 Oct 1974 Dep: 9:20pm Arr: 11:30pm 1+10 420SM

1.	THE PRESIDENT	
2.	COUNSELLOR Robert Hartmann, Counsellor	
3.	Mr. Dean Burch, Counsellor	
4.	Mr. Ron Nessen, Press Secretary	
5.	Mr. Dick Cheney, Consultant	
6.	Dr. William Lukash, Physician	
7.	Mr. David Kennerly, Personal Photographer	
8.	Mr. Terrence O'Donnell, Aide	
9.	Mr. Bill Henkel, Special Assistant	
10.	Mr. Wilbur E. Ainsworth, Special Assistant	
11.	General Adams, Commanding Officer, White House Communications Agency (WHCA)	
12.	Major Robert E. Barrett, Army Aide	
13.	Miss Jill McAulay, Secretary (Press Office)	
14.	Mr. R. Keiser	
15.	Mr. G. Bechtle	
16.	Mr. C. Rochmer	
17.	Mr. J. Ball	
18.	Mr. S. Harrison	USSS
19.	Mr. J. Delamore	
20.	Mr. D. Zimmerman	
21.	Mr. S. Zimney	
22.	Mr. M. Goehring	
23.	MSG Herbert Oldenberg, baggage handler	
24.	YNCS Kelly McGavock, stenographer	
25.	Mr. Frank Cormier	AP
26.	D. Lambro	UPI
27.	Mr. Jules Witcover	Washington Post
28.	Mr. Barry Hager	TIME
29.	Mr. Don Fulson	UPI Audio
30.	Mr. John Duricka	AP Photo
31.	Mr. Frank Cancellare	UPI Photo
32.	Mr. George Romilly	ABC Crew
33.	Mr. Ken Blaylock	ABC Crew
34.	Mr. Cleveland Ryan	ABC Crew

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

October 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ROBERT VISSER

FROM:

PHILIP W. BUCHEN P.

Attached is a copy of a telegram addressed to the President at the White House which was received today.

Inasmuch as it appears to involve an election campaign effort by Congressman Henry S. Reuss, I recommend that a reply be sent by Jim Baker and hand delivered to the office of Congressman Reuss in Washington.

An appropriate reply, I believe, would be as follows:

"Your telegram of October 26 addressed to the President at the White House appears to be an effort on your part to use statements made by John Dean as a campaign issue in the current campaign. Consequently, it was referred to me for reply. Contrary to your assertion, statements by John Dean raised no new questions that have not already been disposed of.

I refer you specifically to the text of answers given by President Ford as recently as October 22 to questions by Mr. Nelson of the Los Angeles Times. The questions and answers appear on pages 8-9 of the enclosed transcript."

I attach a copy of the October 22 transcript to be used for this purpose.

Attachments



2
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6

10-27



The White House
Washington

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3 WHB022(1712)(1-034474A300)PD 10/26/76 1710

4 ICS IPMUAWA WSH

1976 OCT 26 PM 6 36

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6 11036 GOVT BUWASHINGTON DC 175 10-26 550P EDT

7 PMS THE PRESIDENT

8
9 WHITE HOUSE DC



10 DESPITE REPEATED OPPORTUNITIES YOU HAVE STILL NOT TOLD
11 THE PUBLIC THE TRUTH OR FALSITY OF JOHN DEAN'S RECENT
12 ALLEGATION THAT ONE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S WHITE HOUSE AIDES,
13 RICHARD COOK, TALKED TO YOU ABOUT THE EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE
14 WATERGATE INVESTIGATION OF THE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE IN
15 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1972.
16
17
18

19 YOUR FAILURE TO PROVIDE A SPECIFIC AND DIRECT ANSWER TO
20 THE DEAN CHARGE RAISES NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN THE
21 OBSTRUCTION OF THE 1972 INVESTIGATION.
22
23

24 YOU WILL BE IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, FRIDAY MORNING TO
25 ADDRESS A MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION. I
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URGE YOU TO USE THIS FORUM TO PROVIDE A FULL AND ACCURATE
ANSWERR TO THE QUESTION. SPECIFICALLY, I ASK THAT YOU TELL THIS
INDEPENDENT OGRANIZATION OF EDUCATORS WHETHER OR NOT YOU TALKED
TO RICHARD COOK OR ANY OTHER WHITE HOUSE PERSONNEL ABOUT THE
BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION AT ANY TIME
IN 1972

I URGE YOU TO AVAIL YOURSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR
THE AIR AND TO GIVE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THE FACTS.

HENRY S REUSS CHAIRMAN
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BANKING CURRENCY AND HOUSING.

NNNN

October 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ROBERT VISSER

FROM:

PHILIP W. BUCHEN 

Attached is a copy of a telegram addressed to the President at the White House which was received today.

Inasmuch as it appears to involve an election campaign effort by Congressman Henry S. Reuss, I recommend that a reply be sent by Jim Baker and hand delivered to the office of Congressman Reuss in Washington.

An appropriate reply, I believe, would be as follows:

"Your telegram of October 26 addressed to the President at the White House appears to be an effort on your part to use statements made by John Dean as a campaign issue in the current campaign. Consequently, it was referred to me for reply. Contrary to your assertion, statements by John Dean raised no new questions that have not already been disposed of.

I refer you specifically to the text of answers given by President Ford as recently as October 22 to questions by Mr. Nelson of the Los Angeles Times. The questions and answers appear on pages 8-9 of the enclosed transcript."

I attach a copy of the October 22 transcript to be used for this purpose.

Attachments



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/28

TO: Phil Buchen

FROM: Max Friedersdorf's office

for appropriate handling
(we have not acknowledged receipt)

(also,
she sent previous letter
of 10/21 which was forwarded
to you)



ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN
16TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

BROOKLYN OFFICE:
1452 FLATBUSH AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11210
PHONE (212) 859-9111

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1027 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE (202) 225-6616

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 28, 1976

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMISSION ON
INFORMATION AND FACILITIES
CHAIRWOMAN—TASK
FORCE ON FACILITIES AND
SPACE UTILIZATION

1976 OCT 28 PM 3 56

HAND DELIVERED

RECEP. AND SECURITY UNIT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

ME
I call upon you to retract your recent claims of having been given "a clean bill of health" on the question of whether you testified truthfully about White House involvement in your efforts to block the Patman Committee investigation of Watergate.

You cited four agencies -- the House Judiciary Committee, the Senate Rules Committee, the Special Prosecutor, and the Attorney General -- as having investigated and cleared you in this matter. That is simply not true. The facts are as follows:

1. Both Chairman Rodino of the House Judiciary Committee and Chairman Cannon of the Senate Rules Committee have reportedly said earlier this week that they did not clear you, because at the time of their hearings they did not have all the evidence that subsequently became available. Chairman Rodino has reportedly called your claim "misleading."

2. Special Prosecutor Ruff did not clear you, because he did not investigate the question of criminal charges arising out of any false testimony you may have given. He stated, instead, that it was not within his jurisdiction to do so.

3. Attorney General Levi, your political appointee, did not clear you, but instead simply refused to conduct an investigation. According to recent press reports, the Justice Department admits that it did not interview two of the most important witnesses in the case -- John Dean and William Timmons -- and did not question Richard Cook under oath.

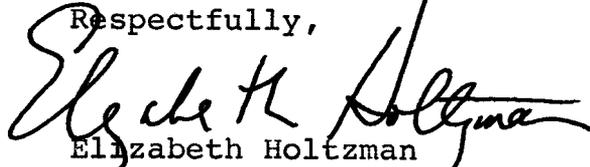
Thus, although you claim that all of these agencies cleared you, they did not, and indeed, no investigation has been conducted. Your statements, therefore, are misleading.



The President
October 28, 1976
Page Two

I urge you, in the interest of simple honesty, to retract these statements and set the record straight. In addition, I reiterate my request that you order the Attorney General to ask Special Prosecutor Ruff to conduct an inquiry into the matter. Such an investigation is clearly in the public interest, and, if you are innocent, you have nothing to fear.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Holtzman
Member of Congress



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Elizabeth Holtzman

M.C.



The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1976

Dear Mr. Strand:

In behalf of the President, I acknowledge your letter to him concerning the statements of John Dean in regard to the proposed hearings of the House Banking and Currency Committee in 1972.

An analysis of Dean's statements shows only that he had some recollection that Mr. Richard Cook of the Nixon White House Congressional Liaison Office reported talking to the then Republican Leader in Congress on that subject. Mr. Cook has denied such conversations, and thus Mr. Dean's "hearsay" allegations in no way contradict the testimony given by the then Congressman Ford when he was being confirmed as Vice President.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Richard W. Strand
4861 Packard
C-11
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

