

"Dean to Liddy to McCord" [See text p]

March 26, 1973

SUBJECT: JOHN DEAN III

From Liddy:

John Dean, Jeb Magruder, Gordon Liddy and John Mitchell in Feb 1972 met in Mitchell's office at the Department of Justice and held the first formal discussion of bugging and other related operations. This information came to me from several discussions before and after the meeting, and came from Gordon Liddy. John Mitchell was then Attorney General and was A/G until March 1, 1972 as I understand it.

Liddy had planned for the meeting very carefully and had drafted out in longhand budget figures for various items of expense, and had discussed them and certain details of the overall operation with Jeb Magruder, so Liddy told me. Magruder reportedly set up the meeting with Mitchell.

Liddy was at that time in an office on the 4th floor at 1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., near Magruder's office. Subsequent to seeing the longhand drafts, Liddy had a typed report on the subject on his desk during one of these discussions and my impression was that he was planning to send it, or take it, by hand, to someone in the White House. I do not know to whom he took it.

The meeting was set up for one particular day, but was cancelled, and reset for a day or so later. It was an afternoon meeting as I recall, and my impression was, from what Liddy told me, that it lasted an hour or more. He said that the discussion covered the pros and cons of various bugging type operations. No decisions were made at the meeting, about proceeding with the operation, but the impression Liddy had seem to be that the operation would be approved.

A few days later Dean told Liddy that a way would have to be worked out to undertake the operation without directly involving the Attorney General so that he would have deniability about it at a future date. Dean told Liddy at this time that the funding for the operation would subsequently come to him through other than regular Committee for the Re-Election (CRP) funding mechanisms so that there would be no record of it. This was not further explained to me.

About 30 days after the February meeting in the A/G's office, Liddy told me that the operation "had been approved" and that the funding for it would be through shortly. My impression was that this word of the approval came from Dean, although this was not specifically stated by Liddy. Dean was Liddy's legal counterpart at the White House. Liddy was at this time (February 1972) legal counsel for the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

Leads

1. Liddy's secretary in February 1972 was Sylvia Panarites. I would believe that she may have typed some of the drafts referred to above and possibly other correspondence in connection with the meeting with the Attorney General and possibly for Dean from Liddy in connection thereto.

James C