NIXON IS - the White House Monday denied that presidential
advisor John A. Dean III had prior knowledge of the Watergate
buggery incident and quoted President Nixon as voicing "absolutely
and total confidence" in Dean.

The statement was issued at Key Biscayne, Fla., where Nixon was
staying.

At the Capitol, the Senate's special Watergate investigating
committee was urged by Republican Leader Hugh Scott to hold public
hearings as quickly as possible.

"He should have the full story," Scott told newsmen. He said
last week Nixon had authorized him to say that the White House
had nothing to conceal.

Scott's comments were made shortly before a closed meeting of the
committee set up by the Senate to investigate the bugging of
democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex and other alleged
political espionage and sabotage in last year's presidential
campaign.

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said the President
telephoned Dean in Washington during the morning because of
that Ziegler called "very extraordinary and serious charges leveled
against Dean."

He was referring to a report by the Los Angeles Times that James
W. McCord, Jr., one of the convicted Watergate defendants, had told
a Senate investigator that Dean and Jeb Stuart Magruder, a former
presidential assistant and campaign official, had prior knowledge of
the Watergate incident last June.

Ziegler said that, based on Nixon's conversation, "I will again
deny any prior knowledge on the part of Mr. Dean."

When asked about Magruder, Ziegler said "I'm not prepared to speak
for those who are not on the White House staff." He noted that
Magruder has denied having any advance knowledge of the affair.

McCord met Friday and Saturday with Samuel Dash, chief counsel of
the Senate panel. Dash told a news conference Sunday that McCord had
named others who were involved, but Dash declined to say who they
were.

McCord, encountered on a Washington street Monday by a Star-News
reporter, said that published accounts of what he had told the
Senate aides were correct. He would not elaborate.

McCord apparently was referring to the Los Angeles Times reports.

Dash said that McCord, an ex-CIA and FBI agent who was security
director of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President,
has agreed to continue to meet with him and tell all he knows about
the Watergate affair.

Scott said anything made available to the investigating
committee's Democratic majority should be made equally available to
the Republican minority "so we can make a judgment" on the
fairness of the probe.

Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield, asked by newsmen about the
Watergate bugging, said "my personal feeling is that the
President very likely didn't know what was going on."

#26
BISCAYNE (UPI) -- PRESIDENT NIXON MONDAY EXPRESSED "ABSOLUTE
CONFIDENCE" IN WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN W. DEAN III, WHO
ANGELES TIMES SAID HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED BY CONVICTED WATERGATE
FRAUD SUSPECT JAMES ACCORD AS HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE BUGGING OF
 Demo
CRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

SECRETARY RONALD ZIEGLER SAID NIXON CALLED DEAN IN
AFTERNOON TO "DISCUSS THE STORY WITH HIM."

"FOLLOWING THAT CONVERSATION, AND BASED ON THAT CONVERSATION, I
MAINLY FLATLY DENY ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE ON THE PART OF MR. DEAN
INVOLVING THE WATERGATE MATTER," ZIEGLER SAID.

"THE PRESIDENT HAS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN MR. DEAN. HE WANTED ME
EXPRESS HIS ABSOLUTE AND TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN MR. DEAN."

ZIEGLER SAID DEAN'S PRIVATE ATTORNEY CALLED NEWS ORGANIZATIONS TO
POSSIBLE VIRGINIA ACTIONS PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION.
BUT HE ADDED, "OF COURSE THAT'S MR. DEAN'S PEROGATIVE AS A
TO PROCEED AFTER HE HAS BEEN FALSELY MALIGNED."

ZIEGLER SAID THE PRESIDENT DID NOT SPEAK BY TELEPHONE WITH JEB
BRUDER, NIXON'S FORMER ASSISTANT CAMPAIGN MANAGER, WHO WAS
IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES REPORT.

ZIEGLER SAID BRUDER HAS DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE.
ZIEGLER ALSO CRITICIZED SAMUEL DASH, COUNSEL TO THE SPECIAL SENATE
INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE, FOR CONDUCTING A "HASTILY CALLED SUNDAY
PRESS CONFERENCE" TO REVEAL THAT HE HAD QUESTIONED ACCORD.
"IT DOES NOT SEEM TO ME TO BE AN ORDERLY AND JUDICIOUS
PAY," ZIEGLER SAID.

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