

But Liddy could have reported back to Haldeman through other channels. (5024-5029, 5062-5063, 5076-5077)

10. June 17-18. Strachan's reaction to Watergate

Strachan first learned of the Watergate break-in on June 17 when he was sitting in his car and heard it on the radio. Strachan immediately drove to the White House to try to contact Magruder in California but was unable to do so on that day. Strachan finally reached Magruder at about noon Washington time on Sunday the 18th. Magruder told Strachan not to worry about it, that he had already contacted Haldeman. Strachan didn't believe this and called Higby who told Strachan that Haldeman had in fact talked with Magruder and that Ehrlichman was handling the entire matter.

(5029-5031, 4993-4994)

Magruder never showed Strachan the Gemstone file. Strachan never heard the term "Gemstone" before June 17.

(5015-5017)

11. June 19-20, 1972. Strachan destroys sensitive files

On Monday, June 19, Strachan pulled files which he thought might indicate a relationship to the break-in. He pulled political matters Memo No. 18. On the

morning of the next day, June 20, Strachan took the political matters memo to Haldeman. Strachan had not contacted Haldeman until this time, and he was scared, expecting that Haldeman would have wanted him to do something about the break-in. But Haldeman was not upset. Strachan showed him the political matters memorandum, and Haldeman acknowledged his check and that he had read it. Haldeman indicated that he had not read the tab which had been attached, and then turned to it and began to read it right there. This was the Sedan Chair II report. Haldeman then told Strachan, make sure our files are ~~clean~~^{clean}. Strachan went down and shredded the documents and other related documents. He shredded Political Matters Memorandum No. 18, the memorandum he had made about his communication to Liddy about changing the emphasis from Muskie to McGovern, the talking memorandum between Haldeman and Mitchell on April 4, a reference to Segretti and Segretti's telephone number. (There had been a dispute about whether or not Segretti should continue out in the field functioning independently. Magruder wrote a memorandum to Mitchell entitled "Matter of Potential Embarrassment," in which Magruder suggested that Segretti be put under the direction of Liddy. Haldeman had been sent a copy

of this memo. Haldeman had told Strachan to call Segretti and to tell Segretti to expect a call and directions from Liddy.) After he had shredded these documents, Strachan went to Dean's office and told Dean of the documents that he had shredded. Strachan told nobody else. (5031-5036, 4994, 5156-5157, 5119-5120, 5067-5068)

Strachan did not think that the documents he shredded concerned illegal activities but that they would be politically embarrassing. (5120-5121)

12. July 1, 1972. Strachan tells Haldeman he destroyed documents

On July 1, Strachan was invited to go with the presidential party on Air Force I. Strachan joined Haldeman and Higby on the flight. Strachan told Haldeman that he had made sure the files were clean and that he had destroyed Memorandum No. 18. Haldeman accepted this as a matter of fact and made no comment on it. Haldeman did ask how many copies of political matters memorandum were prepared, and Strachan told him three. Haldeman told Strachan to cut the number down to two. (5036-5037, 5065-5067)