Conversation: 037-109
Date: March 14, 1973
Time: 4:34 – 4:36 pm
Location: White House Telephone
Participants: Richard M. Nixon, John W. Dean, III


[Begin audio]
Nixon: John?
Dean: Unless I get a counter-information upon further checking, the answer is no, there have been no formal submissions of FBI material like this ever before. However, there have been informal. [Unclear]
Nixon: In other words, what they mean is that they have never formally turned over raw files to a committee.
Dean: Right—
Nixon: Now, informally they have taken the files up and shown them to Jim Eastland—
Dean: That’s correct.
Nixon: —when he, for example, was conducting a judge [confirmation] investigations. That, I understand.
Dean: And they have let [John J.] McClellan and his—
Nixon: Yeah?
Dean: —investigative committee come down and look at, for example, the [Joseph] Valachi case.
Nixon: That’s right.
Dean: Uh—
Nixon: They can look, but they can look at files informally [unclear]—
Dean: Apparently, the word is in the Harry Dexter White case, files were available at that time. As of—for turning over—
Nixon: Yeah?
Dean: —as in this instance, there isn’t—
Nixon: So, in other words, “We have been—Mr. Dean has been very forthcoming in turning over information of this type to a committee.” The committee really shouldn’t use it then, should it? And it shouldn’t put it out—?
Dean: No, it shouldn’t.
Nixon: That’s the point. What I am getting at is this: I’m going to say that there was always Hoover’s practice never to turn over formally to a committee, because he knew this, and he would only did it on a basis of total security for the purposes of conducting investigations, and so forth.
Dean: And there has never been a leak.
Nixon: And there’s never been a— And there has never been a leak of those things before.
Dean: That’s right.
Nixon: And it’s—and therefore we think that they should be evaluated in terms of that.
Dean: Um-hmm.
Nixon: Uh-huh. Ok. Well, keep them scared over there.
Dean: [laughter] Exactly. Yeah.
[End audio]