

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

[Editor's note: the blue text below denotes overlap with Stanley Kutler's *Abuse of Power: The New Nixon Tapes* (New York: The Free Press, 1997).]

[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]