

John Dean: Job-Seeking and House-Hunting

By Maxine Cheshire

John W. Dean III, before he came under renewed attack from the White House last week, had lined up a job with a Santa Barbara research group and was planning to move into a new \$110,000 house overlooking the Pacific.

Now the job has fallen through, but he is reportedly going ahead with plans to relocate in California. He will help his wife, Maureen, get settled there, one source close to him said last week, and then he will return East to "get his sentencing over with."

The house is described by friends as being "on the ocean" somewhere "north of Los Angeles." But there was another, unconfirmed report that he was buying in Trousdale Estates, which was President Nixon's old neighborhood when he left Washington at the end of the Eisenhower administration.

Dean, who was hiding out from the media last week after the White House began again to challenge his veracity, is described by those around him as "a man in a very unsettled state."

He has canceled plans to write a book, although the project was expected to bring him at least \$200,000. The state of his finances, one source says, is such that he has been living recently "by selling off things."

He is negotiating to sell his house in Alexandria's historic waterfront area to Sen. Lowell Weicker of Connecticut for nearly double the \$72,500 it cost two years ago.

There has been no explanation as to why Dean has decided not to publish his memoirs. His West Coast agent had a lucrative deal lined up with Farrar, Strauss & Giroux and Bantam books, and contracts had already been drawn.

Suddenly, two weeks ago, the book was withdrawn. If the publishers were told the reason, they are keeping it very quiet, according to one of the editors involved in the deal.

Former Attorney General John Mitchell, who could never keep his wife from talking on the phone, also had to worry about her eavesdropping on an extension when he made calls himself.

This intriguing insight into life in the Mitchells' Watergate apartment is one of the human vignettes buried in the transcript of recorded presidential conversations released by the White House last week.

John W. Dean III, talking with President Nixon on March 20, 1973, said that he was forced to speak "in code" when he phoned Mitchell at one point because he heard Mrs. Mitchell pick up another receiver.

Dean told the President he had called Mitchell to try to find out if Thomas Pappas, head of Esso Pappas, had been able to raise any money for the Watergate defendants.

When Mrs. Mitchell picked up an extension to listen, Dean quickly started talking in terms he hoped she couldn't understand.

"Have you talked to the Greek?" he asked Mitchell. When the answer was yes, Dean continued, "Is the Greek bearing gifts?"

Mitchell, apparently reluctant to continue, "Is the was being overheard, replied,

"Well, I'll call you tomorrow on that."