

Fulbright's Panel, Too, Seeks Dean Testimony

Special to The New York Times

3/16/73

WASHINGTON, March 15 — John W. Dean 3d, the White House legal counsel who declined yesterday to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee, has also been invited to testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. But the reasons for the two invitations appear to be opposite.

Mr. Dean offered yesterday to provide written answers to questions from the Senate Judiciary Committee rather than appear as a witness in the hearings on the nomination of L. Patrick Gray 3d to be director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

But letters made public today by Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas made it appear that the Senator was challenging Mr. Dean to testify before the Foreign Relations Committee because Mr. Fulbright could not get any written response from the White House aide.

On Jan. 11, Mike Mansfield, the Senate majority leader, sent President Nixon a copy of a Democratic caucus resolution asserting that Cabinet nominees must promise to appear before Congress as witnesses before their nominations would be confirmed.

In a reply to Mr. Mansfield on Jan. 25, which was entered into the public Congressional Record, Mr. Dean said that he would like to discuss "the recurring problem of 'leaks' of classified information given in closed, executive sessions of Senate committees." The letter suggested that the leaks involved national security and foreign policy matters.

Mr. Fulbright, as chairman of the Foreign Relations Commit-

tee, wrote to Mr. Dean on Feb. 9 asking him for "precise information in order to determine what steps should be taken" about the leaks and whether they had involved the Senator's committee.

Rather than a reply from Mr. Dean, Senator Fulbright got a letter dated March 2 from Thomas C. Korologos, the deputy assistant to the President for Congressional relations. Mr. Korologos said that he and his immediate superior, William Timmons, would be happy to meet with Mr. Fulbright about the matter.

Three days ago, Mr. Fulbright again wrote to Mr. Dean, objecting that, "as my inquiry was occasioned by a statement made by you," Mr. Dean should provide the information.

The latest letter from Mr. Fulbright went on to say that Mr. Dean was therefore invited to appear before the committee to discuss the security leaks. Mr. Fulbright's office had not received a reply by tonight.