

VIP

Post
5/19/74

Federal Guards For John Dean

By Maxine Cheshire

U.S. marshals have been guarding former White House counsel John W. Dean III around the clock since March 15, on instructions from Special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

A press spokesman for the United States Marshal's office in Washington confirmed the security precautions. No reason for Jaworski's order was given, but other sources say there have been "threats on Dean's life."

Dean is the only Watergate figure currently under guard and the only one to receive this kind of protection. Others have come under the jurisdiction of the marshals when they were moved from one jail to another or were kept in special quarters while waiting to testify.

The marshals were with Dean in New York recently when he testified in the Mitchell-Stans trial and two were guarding his new \$110,000 house this week in Los Angeles.

They told reporters they were there to keep newsmen away from Dean in compliance with a federal court gag barring him from talking to reporters about Watergate.

But Dean apparently did not need marshals prior to March 15 to keep him from saying something he shouldn't to the news media.

See VIP, G16, Col.1

VIP, From G1

Dean continues to maintain the expensive lifestyle that he has exhibited since he left the White House payroll and became unemployed more than a year ago.

Dean has not been without financial resources since he became unemployed. He withdrew all the money he had paid into the federal retirement fund.

Counting his years on Capitol Hill, that money comes to a minimum of \$14,000 and possibly as much as \$25,000.

He was not the only former White House aide to ask for his money back from the Civil Service pension fund.

Former presidential aides John Ehrlichman and H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, who left at the same time, also took out their retirement money. This is done customarily when the recipient does not expect to return to government employment.

Dean, when he moved to California, may have thought he was going to get away from the limelight and the media which pursues him whenever he surfaces. But,

in many ways, he has become even more of a curiosity in Los Angeles.

One of his new neighbors, who had heard that people back East were interested in what kind of car Dean owns, noted the make and model of a Datsun and a Mercedes parked in the driveway.

Dean had been driving the relatively inexpensive import. His wife, Maureen, was seen driving the white Mercedes convertible on several occasions.

The question of how and whether Dean, out of work, has been able to buy a Mercedes has come up frequently in Washington and elsewhere. At the Mitchell-Stans trial in New York recently, defense lawyers asked him pointedly under oath if he owns such a car.

He replied that he did not and offered no explanation for the fact that he has been seen driving one here and in California.

Now, thanks to a nosy neighbor, the mystery of the California car has been cleared up. A check of the license shows that it belongs to the real estate woman who sold the Deans their house.