

SFChronicle  
Dean Would  
Like to  
See Nixon

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John W. Dean III, whose Watergate testimony played a large part in bringing down the Nixon administration, said yesterday he would like to see and talk to the former President.

"But," the former White House counsel quickly added, "whether he wants to see me is a big question in my mind."

Dean and his wife, Maureen, met with newsmen outside their hilltop home here. They were reunited last week after his release from a federal prison for his role in the Watergate scandals.

Dean had words of sympathy and praise for Richard Nixon.

He also said that while there is more to be told about Watergate "I don't think there will be any enormous bombs . . . that will be dropped."

And he said that in some ways power is affecting the Ford administration as it did the Nixon administration, although he made it clear he was not implying any wrong-doing in the new White House.

Of the former President, Dean said, "I think Mr. Nixon obviously can fill in some gaps (in the Watergate sto-

ry) and hopefully he will."

He said he was not bitter about Mr. Nixon's pardon and said, "I don't think anybody in the country wants to see Richard Nixon in jail. The man has suffered an incredible amount."

Dean said he hopes that eventually the country will look at "the good things that happened" in the Nixon administration, particularly in the field of foreign relations.

"No one has said that the man (Mr. Nixon) didn't have a stroke of greatness in many of the moves he made," he said.

Concerning the Ford administration, Dean said:

"I notice many of the public relations techniques being used (now) that were used in the Nixon years. It seems that while some of the faces have changed, the procedures are the same as far as the mechanics of the presidency. That may well be inevitable in a modern presidency."

He added, "I'm just saying that the uses of power — and I know of no abuses of power (by the Ford administration) — are there and they affect people in the same way they have in the past."

Dean did not spell out his plans for the future, but said he has had offers to make a campus lecture tour. He said he wrote a novel and a book of essays in prison and is now working on a book centered on his decision to tell what he knew about Watergate. Mrs. Dean said she also is writing a book in collaboration with a news magazine writer.

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