

SOME ARRIVED AT 1 A.M.

Dean Draws the Young

1/25/73
By Ronald Sarro
Star-News Staff Writer

It would have been less embarrassing for President Nixon if the crowds sitting on the steps of the Old Senate Office Building were radical Weathermen shouting their one, two, three, fours.

But it was a much more representative group—a crowd so ordinary that it could only be called middle American.

They were mostly young people — the children of those who had elected President Nixon and re-elected him — and they came to hear what John W. Dean III had to say about the President and the Watergate.

For them it was the best way to learn U.S. history — first-hand. They waited while quietly chatting or reading paperback books on things like "A Guide to Summer Jobs for College Students."

SOME HAD driven or hitch-hiked for miles and a handful gathered about 1 a.m. to assure admission to the Senate Watergate hearings. They watched the crowd grow to around 75 by 7 a.m. and then continue to grow slowly.

Capitol Police opened the building at 8:45 a.m., and the people stood in line for a two-hour wait for what they expected to be the most sensational testimony so far, perhaps linking the President directly to the cover-up of the Watergate scandal.

Brien Culhane, 23, of Charlottesville, Va., hitch-hiked to Washington yesterday, visited his parents in Vienna and went to Capitol Hill just after midnight to "take a first-hand look." He said he wanted to hear Dean talk about the kind of spying and surveillance that has been used against some of

Culhane's friends in the anti-war movement.

Graham Butler, 24, a former newspaper distributor in Silver Spring, drove back from Lincoln, Neb., where he has lived for six years, and became the first in line.

HE BROUGHT a bag of five oranges and an apple, which were gone by 6:30 a.m., and two books. "I had a Bible originally, but it slipped out. I wanted to check Ervin's quotations."

It was a quiet crowd, with only a few older people, reading quietly. All were conventionally dressed.

Jerry Hovanek of northeast Washington, a potter, is 26 years old today and "figured I'd celebrate the two historic occasions."

Jeff Frankel, 20, of Berkeley, Calif., a Swarthmore student, said the important thing is "exposing the whole system to the American people."

Bill Bush, 19, who lives near American University in Washington, said he showed up on the steps about 1:15 a.m., "just because of a sense of what's happening. I saw a movie of the McCarthy hearings, and I thought I would have given anything to have seen what was going on then."

THE REV. Harry Harper, 47, of St. George's Church in Glenn Dale, Md., was one of the older people in the waiting group. "The ramifications are rather appalling, but it is good over-all, that it is exposed," he said of the hearing.

"I expected older people here, but there is still a concentration of youths, and they are all serious types," Harper said.

"I would say older people are less concerned across the board," he said. Harper said the Watergate must be a "disenchanted experience for middle Americans who elected Nixon