

# John Dean Sentenced 1-4 Years

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Saying he was sorry but ready to take his punishment, John W. Dean III, chief witness against President Nixon, received a one to four year prison sentence Friday for his part in the Watergate cover-up.

Dean, a 35-year-old lawyer who was once Nixon's chief legal adviser, was sentenced on a guilty plea entered last Oct. 19 to a single count of obstructing justice. He was given until Sept. 3 to get his affairs in order before entering prison.

Noting that Dean had received recognition from the Watergate special prosecution force, the Senate Watergate Committee and the U.S. prosecutor's office in New York, U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said he would recommend that Dean be placed in a minimum security facility.

"I stand here at the mercy of the court," Dean said before sentencing. "The only thing I

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would ask for is your compassion and your understanding.

"I have done wrong," Dean said. "I realize the wrong I have done. What bothers me most is that I was involved in corruption of government and misuse of high office.

"I realize to say I am sorry is really not enough," Dean added. "I have tried for 18 months to do everything I can to right the wrongs, and regardless of what the court judges me I will continue on the same course."

Sirica denied a motion to delay sentencing until Dean had time to listen to recently released White House tapes. Dean's lawyer said the tapes would show Dean tried to end the Watergate cover-up and has been telling the truth in his testimony.

"Dean is the one who broke the case for the government," said attorney Charles Shaffer in urging a light sentence for Dean.

Associate prosecutor James Neal, who said Dean had cooperated "fully and unhesitatingly," said the government did not oppose the motion to delay sentencing. Neal said it might be wise to defer sentencing until a jury had been seated for the Watergate cover-up trial of six former Nixon administration and campaign aides scheduled to start Sept. 9.

The ninth former White House aide to be sentenced, Dean had sought total immunity in return for his testimony, but the prosecutor's office insisted he plead guilty to at least one count.