

Nixon and an Inauguration Protester

Washington

Former White House counsel John W. Dean III said yesterday President Nixon insisted that a man who broke through police lines during his inauguration be prosecuted. But Dean said he let the matter drop without action.

Dean said the man broke through police lines during the inauguration and ran toward the presidential car, getting only about five feet from the curb before being knocked down by Secret Service agents.

"That night the head of the Secret Service detail assigned to protect the President called me and told me that the President was quite angry about this and wanted something done about it," Dean said.

"I told him to tell the President that he had reported it to me and that I was looking into it," Dean said.

Dean said a short time later at a White House church service, Mr. Nixon pulled him aside and said, "I want something done about this man." Dean said, however, that he looked into the matter and determined that no substantive charge could be brought against the man.

"There was no assassination attempt," Dean said. "He apparently was merely trying to make a point of being arrested in a public forum to make his protest."

Associated Press

The above is from Dean's testimony before Senate Watergate committee. The previous day (?) he told of two other incidents, one of a single protester with a sign across from the White House* and the other involving protesters in Ohio,** both of which angered Nixon. See also story on photographer at inauguration, NYTimes 28 Feb 73.

*WxP 26 Jun 73, p. 8, col. 2

**Dean ~~testimony~~, prepared statement, 25 Jun 73; cassette 12A at 20, KPFA daily summary.

See also Nicholas von Hoffman, WXPost 27 Jun 73, filed W/gate.