

# Dean Ends His Coverup Testimony

## Washington

John W. Dean III the prosecution's main witness in the Watergate coverup trial, completed his testimony yesterday after eight days on the witness stand.

Dean's vivid and painstakingly detailed narrative of the attempt to cover up the original Watergate burglary remained unshaken despite repeated attacks on his credibility and character by defense lawyers.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica referred to the long and frequently repetitive questioning of Dean as he sent him back to prison.

"Mr. Dean, I would suggest you get off the stand as quickly as you can before some lawyer thinks of some other question to ask you," the judge said.

He has answered hundreds of detailed questions about dates, times, meetings and events over the nine months covered by the indictment in the case against five defendants.

Almost all of Dean's testimony yesterday was drawn out under cross-examination by David Bress, one of the lawyers for former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian.

At one point, Bress questioned Dean about an obscure piece of testimony Dean had once given to the Senate Watergate Committee on whether Dean had ever promised never to seek immunity from prosecution.

That prompted Sirica for the second day in a row to refer to Dean's credibility in the presence of the jury.

"I think we're going far afield here," Sirica said, asking Bress, "Is this just to make him (Dean) out another liar on a piece of evidence, is that the idea?"

Sirica went on to say he thought the defense lawyers had done a good job, but declared that Dean "has admitted his participation in this alleged coverup case."

In his cross-examination, Bress asked frequently lengthy questions attempting to demonstrate inconsistencies in what the 36-year-old former White House counsel had said before on various elements of the coverup.

At one point he accused Dean of fabricating some of his testimony in the trial about the days immediately after the original Watergate break-in.