

In Watergate's Tangled Skein, Which Dean(e) Do They Mean?

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By John Harrahan

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What happens when your name is John Deane III and you worked in the White House and there are news reports that White House

aide John Dean III was named by a Watergate conspirator as having had advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging conspiracy?

You get calls from family

and friends who are worried over the trouble you're having, that's what happens, Deane said yesterday.

Deane's full name is John Russell Deane III and friends and acquaintances know his as "Russ." The person named in the Watergate news accounts is John Wesley Dean III, the White House counsel.

Deane said yesterday he worked in the White House from Jan. 3, 1971, until last August when he went to work for the Committee for the Re-election of the President. He now works for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In the White House, Deane said he served as executive assistant to Clark MacGregor, then counsel to the President for congressional relations.

"I handled congressional matters, gave tours, onthing very exotic," Deane said. "I was just one of the lonely workers in the White House."

Deane is an attorney. For the record, he is a former employee of The Washington Post. Also for the record, Deane said he had never met or worked with Watergate conspirators James W. McCord Jr. or G. Gordon Liddy.