

Dean Held Fired From 1st Job

Jack Anderson, in a column published today, says that John W. Dean III, chief legal counsel to President Nixon, apparently was forced to leave his first job as an attorney in 1966 for what the head of his law firm termed "unethical conduct." Anderson cited a confidential 1967 Civil Service Commission form in which the charge was made.

Dean would make no comment but the White House yesterday released a letter by an attorney, written in 1969, that defended Dean.

The unethical conduct charge was made by Vincent B. Welch, senior partner in the Washington law firm of

Welch and Morgan. Anderson noted that two years after making the charge, Welch wrote that it was perhaps "an overstatement."

Dean's departure from the firm followed an apparent dispute with Welch over applications for TV station licenses in St. Louis. Welch and Morgan were partners in one UHF venture there and Dean was discussing with others the possibility of taking part in a rival TV station.

Welch said only "no comment" when contacted yesterday about Dean's departure from the firm in February, 1966, after working there six months.

The letter in defense of Dean was written by an attorney involved in the TV license applications, Earl R. Stanley, and was sent to a friend of Dean's, attorney Edward P. Laphin. It was written in January, 1969, a month before Dean was appointed associate deputy attorney general.

In the letter, Stanley said Dean and a television management expert at Welch and Morgan had discussed with him setting up a UHF-TV station in St. Louis, which would be a rival to a UHF (channel 24) station Welch and Morgan were attempting to establish there. The management expert, Boyd Fellows, who had assisted in the channel 24 venture, left Welch and Morgan abruptly at the same time as Dean, according to former attorneys with the firm.

Stanley wrote that such discussions were not unethical and that both Dean and Fellows had planned to leave the Welch and Morgan firm before taking active roles in the rival station. He praised Dean as an "extremely honorable, conscientious, careful and able man."

A former member of the Welch-Morgan firm said yesterday that "somehow Welch

became aware of their plans... and was annoyed at not being told by John (Dean) what he was planning to do..." There was an argument, bitterness... and Dean left the firm I'm not sure you would characterize John's leaving as a mutually agreeable resignation or an outright dismissal."

In recalling the 1966 dispute, the attorney said, "We were young lawyers at the time (Dean had graduated from Georgetown University. Law School the previous June), and his ideas of what was expected of him were not completely formed yet."

Welch himself, in a late 1968 letter to the Civil Service Commission, recharacterized Dean's departure "as having resulted from a basic disagreement over law firm policies regarding the nature and scope of an associate's activities." He said he was writing the letter "coGNizant of the implications for Mr. Dean which my (original) characterization may have..."

Another former attorney with the Welch-Morgan firm said "all departures from Welch-Morgan are hasty... mine was hasty and I quit. And then it's not uncommon for Welch to get mad at someone." Late yesterday, Anderson's

In Seven Years, Vietnam GIs...

United Press International

In the seven years from 1966 through 1972, the Pentagon reports, American GIs in Vietnam consumed:

- 22 billion bottles and cans of beer.
- 2.4 billion bottles and cans of soft drinks.
- 98 million pounds of ketchup.

associate, Les Whitten, said that, in addition to what was printed in the column, "It is our understanding that Mr. Dean was working on a rival application while actually an associate of the Welch and Morgan firm—without informing other members of the firm. "Former members said the partners actually considered taking the matter before a grievance committee, for disbarment purposes. The firm members said there was a dramatic confrontation after Dean was caught with the application for himself and his friends."

As for the TV stations, the Welch-Morgan venture struggled through six years of changes and postponements and finally died in 1971, without ever having gone on the air.