

# Dean Guilty in Cover-Up

## Nixon Ex-Aide Pleads to Count Of Conspiracy

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No longer worried about being made "the scapegoat," John W. Dean III, once counsel to the President, pleaded guilty in a surprise move yesterday to conspiracy to obstruct justice in the Watergate scandal.

Looking tense and momentarily putting the wrong hand on the Bible as he was sworn in, Dean acknowledged his complicity in the Watergate cover-up and promised "complete cooperation" with Watergate special prosecutors from here on.

"Initially, I sought immunity from prosecution because I refused to be the Watergate scapegoat," Dean said in a written statement following his plea before chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

But now, he said, "events have resolved that matter, and I have confidence that I cannot and will not be made the scapegoat."

Dean, 35 faces a maximum sentences of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for the single conspiracy count filed against him yesterday in a six-page criminal information.

In return, Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox emphasized that he was reserving the right to bring perjury charges against Dean if any of his testimony should prove "materially false."

But other than that, Cox promised Dean and his lawyers, in return for the guilty plea, that no other charges in-

volving the Watergate scandal would be held over his head.

Despite what he called "excellent technical and procedural" chances of avoiding conviction if he went to trial, Dean said he was admitting his guilt in hopes of restoring a measure of integrity to a tarnished government.

"... Given the nature of the cover-up conspiracy, and the importance of restoring public confidence in our Governmental processes, to have defeated the Government on legal technicalities would have, indeed, been a shallow victory," he said.

Pointedly, Dean, who still stands alone in accusing President Nixon of involvement in the Watergate cover-up, said

See DEAN, A8, Col. 1

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DEAN, from A1

he hoped that "others will also come forward and accept responsibility for their complicity." Dean said he would do his part "to right the wrongs of Watergate."

Six overt acts by Dean were cited in the charges submitted to Sirica during yesterday morning's half-hour hearing at the U.S. courthouse here.

They involved concealment of evidence, the coaching of witnesses to give false testimony, the raising of hush money for the seven Watergate defendants and their families, efforts to use the Central Intelligence Agency in obstructing the government's initial investigation, interference with the FBI and the Department of Justice in prosecuting the case, and offers of executive clemency for at least one of the original Watergate defendants.

Under questioning by Sirica, Assistant Watergate special Prosecutor James F. Neal estimated that the covertly raised funds to keep the original Watergate defendants quiet totaled approximately \$450,000, including payments to their families and lawyers.

According to Cox, it all added up to a plot by Dean and other co-conspirators "unnamed herein" to obstruct justice and "defraud the United States" by dishonestly interfering with the performance of lawful government functions.

At a brief press conference after the hearing, Cox said he thought the outcome "entirely proper." He indicated that the agreement with Dean and his chief lawyer, Charles N. Shaffer, was reached just in the last few days.

Assistant Special Prosecutor Neal, who announced at the same time that he was reluctantly resigning from Cox's task force to tend to his neg-





United Press International

John and Maureen Dean leave U.S. District Court after he pleaded guilty in cover-up.

lected law practice in Tennessee, said that the prosecutors have not had a chance yet to question Dean in any detail.

As a result, Neal said it was impossible to say at this point whether Dean could add any crucial and still undisclosed details about alleged administration misdeeds or whether he has already said all that he can before the Senate Watergate committee where he testified under a grant of immunity.

Dean's wife, Maureen, was in the courtroom as he listened to the recitation of the charges and affirmed their accuracy.

"Do you wish to plead guilty to the information I have just read to you in great detail?" Sirica asked him.

"That is correct, your honor," Dean replied.

Sirica released Dean on his own recognizance and ordered him not to travel outside the continental United States. Shaffer said Dean couldn't go

much farther anyway because his passport remains looked up at the White House, "so safe and secure that Mr. Dean can't give it to your honor this morning."

Like 1972 Nixon campaign strategists Jeb Stuart Magruder and Fred LaRue, who pleaded guilty to similar charges over the summer, Dean will not be sentenced until after the trials of any others implicated by their testimony.

The overt acts in the conspiracy that were laid to Dean included:

- Dean's directing Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy on June 19, 1972, two days after discovery of the break-in and bugging of Democrat national headquarters here, to tell Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt to get out of the country.

- Dean's asking the deputy director of the CIA, Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, on June 27 "whether the CIA could use

covert funds to pay the bail and salaries of those involved in the break-in at the Watergate office complex." Walters has said he told Dean he would rather quit the CIA.)

- Dean's request two days later to Herbert W. Kalmbach, then the President's personal lawyer, "to raise cash funds with which to make covert payments" for the original seven Watergate suspects.

- Dean's seeking FBI reports on the Watergate investigation from Director L. Patric Gray III, both in July and October of 1972.

- Dean's coaching of Magruder, then deputy director of the Nixon re-election campaign, on Aug. 15, 1972, in connection with Magruder's false testimony before the Watergate grand jury.

- Dean's telling John C. Caulfield, a self-described security expert for the White House, on Jan. 9, 1973, "to deliver an offer of executive clemency" to Watergate defendant James C. McCord.