

Post 11/2/73

City and State

Dean Faces Hearing On Virginia License

Alexandria Circuit Judge Franklin P. Backus yesterday ordered former White House counsel John W. Dean III to appear at a hearing to show cause why his license to practice law in Virginia should not be revoked.

The judge acted in response to a complaint filed Friday by the Eighth District Committee of the Virginia State Bar that accused Dean of "unethical, unprofessional and unworthy conduct" in his role in the Watergate sequence of events.

Judge Backus said the state Supreme Court would appoint two other justices to preside with him at the hearing. The panel could order Dean's disbarment.

The complaint said Dean agreed an appearance before the bar committee Nov. 12 to several charges in the complaint, including allegations that Dean violated Virginia canons of ethics for attorneys by withholding evidence during development of the government's case against the men accused of the Watergate break-in last year.

Dean did not agree the complaint said, to allegations that he appropriated \$4,850 for personal use, and that he failed to report his knowledge of alleged improprieties for the Committee to proper conduct by William Bittman, attorney for E. Howard Hunt, and by attorney-elect the President in their communications with Judge W. Matt Byrne, who presided over the California trial of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg.