

Dean Says Nixon Could Answer 'a Lot of Whys of Watergate'

By ANDREW H. MALCOLM

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LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15—John W. Dean 3d, the former White House counsel who was released from prison last week after serving a four-month sentence for his part in the Watergate cover-up, began building a new life in a new home here today.

The 35-year-old lawyer, whose 1973 decision to cooperate with prosecutors was a key to the unravelling of the Watergate conspiracy, met with reporters in the driveway of his \$110,000-hillside home here overlooking Beverly Hills.

"I couldn't be happier to be home," he said as his wife, Maureen, sat beside him.

In the bright, 86-degree southern California suns in, Mr. Dean looked drawn, but he spoke freely on a number of topics, including prison life, his own future and his former chief, Richard M. Nixon.

"Mr. Nixon has suffered an incredible amount," said Mr. Dean, "but I never wanted to see him convicted or go to jail.

"I'd like very much to talk with Mr. Nixon," he added. "Very much. We could talk for hours. But whether he wants to see me is another question."

Mr. Dean said the former President "can obviously fill in some gaps [in the Watergate scandal] and hopefully he will, though perhaps not on the witness stand. There are a lot of whys of Watergate yet to be answered."

But the bespectacled Mr. Dean, whose televised testimony transfixed millions of Americans in the summer of 1973, said he knew of "no enormous bombs to be dropped" concerning the Watergate affair. "The general picture and pattern is out



John W. Dean 3d and his wife, Maureen, at a news session yesterday in Los Angeles

and established, he said. "It will be more filling in as the questioning continues."

He did not elaborate on what the "whys" were, but said the ongoing investigation had been "a fascinating experience. I continually remember new things after different questions." But Mr. Dean said he had nothing new to add to the record now.

He called his jail experience most recently at Lost Halabird in Maryland "a very difficult time." He said that his emotions were greatly intensified, ranging from despair and anxiety to love all "in a way I never felt before. It was very unpleasant."

"You instantly know when you've lost your freedoms," he added. "You can't pick up

a phone. Your ability to buy books is gone. You must get friends to bring them in and they must be opened first."

Financially, it has been difficult too, he said. "I wonder if people realize the expenses," said Mr. Dean, "I've done nothing for 16 months but deal with investigative bodies." He said he "slowly liquidated almost everything I owned—my car, my house, my boat."

Mr. Dean sold his home in Alexandria, Va., reportedly for \$135,000, to Senator Lowell Weiker of Connecticut, one of his examiners on the Senate Watergate Committee.

Mr. Dean's home here faces southwest toward the Los Angeles Basin and the nearby sumptuous homes of Beverly

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Hills. But in the immediate neighborhood, an area called Goldwater Canyon, the driveways are littered, not with automobiles, but with tricycles.

According to the Los Angeles Recorder's Office, the Deans made a cash down payment of \$27,500 and bor-

rowed the balance of \$82,500 from Wells Fargo Bank. After a vacation, Mr. Dean said he would begin writing a book about Watergate, tentatively titled "Decision of Consequence." Mrs. Dean is also writing a book on the scandal.

'Decision of Consequence'

In prison Mr. Dean, who will soon begin giving campus lectures, said he had worked on two other books. One is a collection of essays on the governmental process, comparing the theories of the Founding Fathers to the actual process. Mr. Dean said they did not match.

The other is a novel about the first black woman appointed to the Supreme Court. "I'm not black and I'm not a woman," said Mr. Dean, "so I had to do a lot of reading."

Mr. Dean said he was "bothered" by the idea of making money from the Watergate scandal.

"But I don't know what else to do to make a living," he said. "I enjoy writing, which is what I originally started out to do, believe it or not?"

"Who knows," said Mr. Dean, "some day maybe I will be not just John Dean, Watergate figure, but John Dean, something else."

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDLES!