

# 'No Reason To Believe Dean Lied'

Washington

An assistant special Watergate prosecutor said yesterday the government has no evidence to prove that presidential accuser John W. Dean III lied under oath.

"Based on the evidence we have accumulated so far we have no reason for believing that Mr. Dean has committed perjury in any proceeding," Richard Davis said in federal court.

It was the first public statement from the office of special prosecutor Leon Jaworski directly contradicting Senator Hugh Scott (Rep-Pa.), who says the White House has evidence Dean lied.

An aide to Scott said the senator has launched an inquiry into the matter.

"We believe there is a tape Jaworski has not seen," the aide added. He identified it as the recording of a Feb. 28, 1973, conversation between Dean and the President.

Dean told the Senate Watergate committee that at that meeting he informed Mr. Nixon that he, Dean, had been involved in possible obstruction of justice in the Watergate coverup and that Mr. Nixon assured him he had no legal problems.

The prosecutor's office has consistently refused to say what tapes — other than those ordered produced by the courts — the White House has turned over.

Scott told newsmen, "I have no comment on anything."

Dean told the Senate Watergate committee that he left a meeting with President Nixon Sept. 15, 1972, feeling that the President was aware "of what had been going on regarding the success of keeping the White House out of the Watergate scandal."

Dean also swore that the President said Watergate defendant E. Howard Hunt had been promised executive clemency and that paying hush money was no problem. Mr. Nixon denied making the statements.

Meanwhile, the prosecutors who have handled the Watergate coverup investigation and White House lawyers met yesterday with Chief U.S. District Judge John Sirica. The subject discussed at the 45-minute gathering was not disclosed,

# DEAN

From Page 1

and the transcript was sealed.

Leaving the courthouse, the President's chief Watergate lawyer — James St. Clair — was asked if the White House will continue to cooperate with the special prosecutor in making Watergate evidence available.

"The President expressed last night in his speech a firm desire to bring investigations to a speedy conclusion so the people involved will be properly dealt with in the administration of the justice system," St. Clair said, adding:

"I'm hopeful that we can continue to work with Mr. Jaworski's committee, but there has to come an end at some point, and we'll just have to consider the circumstances as they hereafter occur."

Asked if that meant the White House planned to stop turning over information to Jaworski, St. Clair replied: "I wouldn't want to make that suggestion right now, explicitly, no."

The questions were prompted by the President's statement, at the end of his State of the Union speech, that "I have provided all the material the special prosecutor needs to conclude his investigations and to proceed to prosecute the guilty and to clear the innocent."

Dean is scheduled as a witness in the upcoming trial of Dwight Chapin, the President's former appointments secretary who is charged in four counts with lying to a grand jury.

During a pre-trial hearing yesterday, Chapin's lawyer, Jacob Stein, told U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell that, "if the government has evidence Mr. Dean has lied, even in matters extraneous to this case, we are entitled to that information."

That prompted Davis' reply that there is no basis for believing Dean lied and "no basis . . . for bringing any charge of perjury against Mr. Dean."

Associated Press