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DEAN

A SHAKEN John W. Dean III, who had once won effusive praise from President Nixon for his containment of the Watergate affair, but more recently had been pictured as a persistent liar by the White House, became the 17th person sentenced to prison for his part in the affair.

In Washington, D.C., U.S. District Judge John Sirica listened impassively last weekend as Dean said: "I have done wrong . . . I have tried for 18 months to do everything I can to right the wrongs . . ."

Then Dean was sentenced to 1-to-4 years in prison (minimum security), one of the stiffest sentences yet meted out. Dean had pleaded guilty October 19 to one count of conspiring to obstruct justice, and would start serving time September 3.

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