

NBC News Sets Up Four Exclusive Interviews

By LES BROWN

NBC News has scheduled a set of four exclusive interviews this week with John Dean 3d, former counsel to President Nixon and a principal witness in the Watergate trials, to discuss his newly published book, "Blind Ambition: The White House Years."

The interview will be carried on the early-morning "Today" program tomorrow, Thursday and Friday and on the "Nightly News" tomorrow evening.

More than a year ago, NBC news had

optioned the television rights to Mr. Dean's book for possible use in a special program and reportedly had paid him \$7,500 in that arrangement.

But officials of the network's news division said yesterday that Mr. Dean was not being paid for the interviews and that they were not in any way related to the financial arrangements for the book rights. "If we are first to interview John Dean on television, it must be because we asked him first," said Richard C. Wald, president of NBC News.

Mr. Wald pointed out that appearances

With James Dean 3d

on the "Today" show were in high demand with authors and their publishing houses and were considered the most desirable exposure in television for the promotion of new books.

Maneuverings in Cover-up

Mr. Wald indicated that the promotional value of the appearances was reason enough for Mr. Dean and his publisher, Simon and Schuster, to agree to the interviews.

Mr. Dean's book deals with his three years in the White House as a key figure

in the Watergate episode and is his candid account of the maneuverings of President Nixon and the men around him in the attempted cover-up.

Mr. Wal, who said he had not yet read Mr. Dean's memoir, noted that the book had been optioned while it was still in progress for a possible special NBC News had been planning on the final days of the Nixon Administration.

"We've put the project on the shelf until after the election," Mr. Wald said. "At this point, we've made no decision on whether to go forward with it."