

**Dean's List****William Hogan**

**T**HE PRESIDENT concluded his reflections on young lawyers in government, leaned back in his chair, clasped his hands, and was once again most presidential. Haldeman, seated immediately beside his desk, looked at John Dean and said, without speaking a word, Now that you are the President's counsel, what do you have to say?

Dean thought he could handle the job, although he was not at all sure. He didn't understand the description. The job sounded vague, scary. "If you made a mistake at the White House, you'd be finished."

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**W**ATERGATE WATCHERS and collectors of Watergate tales — from Jeb Stuart Magruder to Leon Jaworski — will have to read John Dean's "Blind Ambition," a lucid, infinitely detailed account of Byzantine intrigue in the Nixon White House and of his role in, and his view of, what we might call the Watergate years.

It is essentially the story Woodward and Bernstein told in "All the President's Men," but told from the inside looking out. Dean, the fair-haired Justice Department lawyer, was Mr. Nixon's legal trouble-shooter, answerable to Haldeman and Ehrlichman. He steadily climbed toward what he terms the "moral abyss" of the President's inner circle where everybody jockeyed for position. One could sense, he reveals, changes in status; success and failure

could be seen in the size, decor and location of offices.

Haldeman declared early on: "Once the toothpaste is out of the tube it's going to be tough to get it back in." Dean was smeared with toothpaste when he blew the whistle, before the Ervin Committee, that first implicated the President in the coverup.

Dean shows himself to have been an ambitious young lawyer consumed by "blind ambition," filled with awe at the status he quickly achieved. Then the collapse, to the point where Dean was warned he ought to put his story on a tape, because it was possible he would be "bumped-off" (Simon & Schuster; \$11.95).

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**"C**HIEF COUNSEL," an inside story of the Senate Watergate committee by Samuel Dash, the man who built its investigating team and directed its activities, will appear from Random House November 1 (\$10). Dash shows that what the public saw and heard on television was only the tip of an iceberg of painstaking legal maneuvers in the hearings. Among other revelations, Dash describes the dramatic point in the investigation when he, and with only Senator Sam Ervin's knowledge, first interrogated John Dean in all-night sessions which revealed for the first time the culpability of the President.