

# Dean Reportedly Has No Evidence on Nixon

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## Washington

Senate and federal investigators say that on the basis of extended interviews with John W. Dean III, they believe he has no evidence to link President Nixon either to prior knowledge of the Watergate bugging or to any subsequent cover up, reliable sources said yesterday.

Sources in the Department of Justice and the select Senate committee on presidential campaign activities said that Dean, the former White House counsel, gave his full account in recent weeks to both investigating groups as he sought to bargain for immunity. He has not appeared before a grand jury.

Sources said both the Senate and the federal prosecutors have concluded that Dean is capable of implicating only H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, and John D. Ehrlichman, the President's former adviser for domestic affairs.

"We know precisely what Dean can do," a federal

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source said. "We have debriefed him from A to Z."

Because of the limited scope of Dean's testimony, the sources said, prosecutors in the Watergate case are angry with the Senate committee for its decision to seek immunity for Dean before the committee begins public hearings on the case next Thursday.

The dispute over the granting of immunity to Dean has exacerbated poor relations between the two in-

vestigating groups, sources said. Each side is accusing the other of failing to share information and of refusing to cooperate in other ways.

"Senate is dismantling the criminal cases before our eyes," one source close to the prosecutors said.

### REPLY

"I'm cooperating fully with them," replied Samuel Dash, chief counsel of the Senate committee. "You ask if they're cooperating with us."

Dash was apparently referring to the justice Department's decision, announced yesterday, to go slow on the Senate committee's request for immunity for Dean. Under the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, the Senate request must be submitted to a federal judge for approval. The Justice Department has decided to take the full 30 days allowed under the law before submitting the Senate request to the court.

Eight previous Senate requests for immunity, including those involving E. Howard Hunt Jr., who pleaded guilty in the Watergate bugging case last January, were processed through the Justice Department with no delay.

The go-slow decision in Dean's case irked senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Senate Watergate investigation committee.

"For the life of me," the North Carolina democrat told newsmen, "I can't understand why we can get away from the time limitation in the case of insignificant witnesses but not in the case of witnesses we find of great importance."