

Dean Charges Drive to Restrict His Testimony

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

John W. Dean III, the ousted White House counsel, charged yesterday there "is an ongoing effort to limit or prevent my testifying fully and freely" in the Watergate investigation.

The 34-year-old lawyer asserted that there have been attempts to influence the handling of his statements by the government prosecutors and that "restrictions have been placed on the scope of my testimony as it relates to the White House."

In a statement issued through his attorneys, Dean also said that there is an "unwillingness to accept the truth" in the White House that "still prevails among some who are affected by the truth."

Dean, who was forced to resign his White House post on April 30, gave no elaboration of what he knows about the conspiracy to spy on Democrats last year and the alleged administration cover-up attempt.

It was disclosed Wednesday that the Justice Department intends to delay for 30 days a court order under which Dean could be granted immunity from prosecution and forced to testify before the Senate Watergate committee.

The Senate committee chairman, Sam J. Ervin Jr. of North Carolina, said that aside from the 30-day delay

there is nothing the Justice Department can do to prevent Dean's testimony.

Other developments yesterday:

• Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer of President Nixon's campaign organization, said in sworn testimony that two other

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aides had tried to persuade him to perjure himself and that he had informed other officials of this.

• James W. McCord Jr., in his first public testimony, gave multiple details of the inception and execution of the conspiracy to wiretap telephones at the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

• Lawyers for the Democratic National Committee said they would attempt to take pretrial testimony from Dean in their civil suit against the Republicans. The deposition was set for May 17.

There have been conflicting reports on the evidence that Dean, who is known to be seeking immunity from prosecution, could supply to the Senate and the grand jury if he talks.

Newsweek and Time magazines said that the one-time White House lawyer is ready to testify that he believes President Nixon himself was informed of efforts to cover up the Watergate activities.

But the New York Times said yesterday that both the government prosecutors and Senate sources are persuaded that Dean has no evidence to implicate the President.

STATEMENT

"The news stories quoting unidentified sources and speculating on the nature of my testimony do not come from me, have not been authorized by me, nor have they come from my attorneys," Dean said yesterday.

"The information contained in these stories is neither complete nor accurate," he said in a two-page statement. "I have not, and will not, leak my testimony to the media."

Dean said that in the last four or five months there have been discussions in the White House on how to "end the Watergate story," but that there was always "an unwillingness to accept the truth for what it meant."

"I have always been — as I am now — prepared to have the truth emerge," Dean asserted, "But I am not willing to see the truth

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distorted further nor am I willing to shoulder the blame for those unwilling to accept the truth."

Dean charged that there have been attempts to "publicly intimidate me" and to "discredit me personally in the hope of discrediting my testimony." He did not elaborate.

CREDIBILITY

Even before Dean had uttered a word of sworn, public testimony on the affair, a growing controversy had developed over his credibility.

Dean's supporters and others suspect an effort to protect Mr. Nixon and other officials from possible embarrassment, while Dean's critics believe he is merely trying to avoid indictment, by implicating others.

The prosecution has refused to grant Dean immunity from prosecution or to call him before the federal grand jury now investigating the case. It contending that senate immunity for Dean would damage any future prosecution proceedings against him.