

# Senate Watergate

Panel Votes to Request Immunity  
for Dean So He Can Testify  
*Similar Action Is Planned  
For New Figure in Case*

By WALTER RUGABER MAY 16 1973

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WASHINGTON, May 15—The Senate Watergate Committee, scheduled to begin hearings Thursday, moved ahead today with plans to obtain immunity from prosecution for John W. Dean 3d, the deposed White House counsel.

The panel, during a brief private meeting this morning, took a similar step on Roy H. Sheppard, a previously unidentified witness who is said to have moved a number of cartons of documents from the White House complex shortly after the Watergate break-in last June 17.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the North Carolina Democrat who heads the committee, said last week that the Justice Department had refused to waive its right to a 30-day delay in granting immunity for Mr. Dean.

The prosecutors in the Watergate investigation have refused to give the former White House official immunity in exchange for grand jury testimony and are said to believe that such action in the Senate would complicate their case.

But the unanimous committee vote to apply for immunity suggested that the Senators consider Mr. Dean's testimony important. He can be compelled to testify when the grant is formally made by a Federal judge.

### Restriction Outlined

Mr. Dean's words on Capitol Hill could not then be used against him in court, but evidence collected by the prosecutors independently of his Senate testimony could be used in any proceeding that might be brought against him.

A number of documents were taken from the White House by Mr. Dean and stored in a safety deposit box before he was forced to resign.

Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court ruled yesterday that both the Senate panel and the United States Attorney's office here could have copies of the papers, which Mr. Dean had turned over to the court, but it was understood that the

committee had not obtained the papers before today's session.

The committee also voted today to seek immunity for Mr. Sheppard, of Alexandria, Va., who is said to have removed political documents from the Executive Office Building last June.

Mr. Sheppard's former lawyer, Peter Wolf, said in a court recently that his client had told him that he kept the papers hidden throughout the summer and had turned them over to President Nixon's campaign organization just before the election.

### Attorneys Disagree

Mr. Wolf told the court that his client had said that the papers included plans to wiretap the Democrats, but Mr. Sheppard's new attorney told reporters his client would say that he had not read the papers.

Mr. Wolf said Mr. Sheppard was an employe of President Nixon's campaign organization, but the new attorney, Benjamin Cotten, was quoted as saying that Mr. Sheppard had only arranged freight shipments and was not an employe.

Mr. Dean appeared at the courthouse today to give pre-trial testimony in a civil suit in which Common Cause, the citizens' lobby, is seeking to force disclosure of Republican campaign finances.

In an interview published today by The Washington Star-News, Mr. Dean said that he had "no real weight" in the White House, that he "was counsel to the President, but I didn't counsel the President."

Until a short time before he was forced to resign on April 30, Mr. Dean told the newspaper, he saw President Nixon on 10 times and never alone. He said he had never written a report clearing the White House of involvement in the Watergate break-in.

"On a couple of occasions," the young lawyer said, "when I was asked to write some fairy tales. I drafted one which showed I thought they were fairy tales and just had other people, speaking for themselves."