

Dean Quoted: 'I'll Never Testify'

Time magazine reported yesterday that former presidential counsel John W. Dean III said in an interview that if he is indicted by the Watergate grand jury, "I'll probably never testify. Maybe everyone will have to wait until I'm an old man and write a book."

In the interview, Dean also said that when and if all the facts about the Watergate type espionage are known "there will be several additional federal grand juries in this country, besides the one now at work."

Dean is actively seeking immunity from prosecution, and the statement that he may never tell his story was viewed by two federal sources yesterday as part of Dean's campaign to gain that immunity.

Federal sources have said that the assistant U.S. attorneys handling the case had

planned to indict Dean along with from five to nine other former presidential aides. However, with the appointment of Archibald Cox as the special prosecutor in charge of the case, decisions on indictments will now be in his hands.

The Senate's select Watergate investigating committee has sought to grant partial immunity to Dean, but the Justice Department has exercised its option to delay the granting of that limited immunity for 30 days.

Despite Dean's active campaign to obtain full immunity, reliable federal sources have said that Dean's testimony may be essential to understanding what role President Nixon had, if any, in the alleged, Watergate cover-up.

In the interview, which will be printed in Monday's edition of Time, Dean also said:

• "I did not go to the prosecutors seeking immunity. There were things going on that just had to come out—immediately. Things are still going on that I find distressing." (Dean went to the prosecutors on April 6 with at least a partial version of events, according to government sources.)

• Concerning the President's statement on the Watergate last week: "The President had to position himself . . . this whole thing is still coming out inch by inch—with a mile to go. It may be impossible to travel that full mile. The White House public relations mechanism was obviously at work . . . The eternal hope prevails that somehow they won't have to travel that full mile . . . that statement was a public relations statement. Some of it was not quite accurate. Some of it was not accurate at all."

• About the general mood in the White House in 1970 when a special security unit was set up: "There was extreme concern in the White House. I wouldn't characterize it as paranoia, exactly . . . it was all out of proportion. It focused on two subjects: demonstrations and leaks . . . they thought the existing agencies were insufficient. The existing agencies never could tie in the demonstrators or the leakers with partisan political motives. They could not tie these people to the Democrats, and they could not tie them to any particular political figures."

• "I don't feel criminally culpable. I don't have that many legal problems. I'm really in an incredible position to deal with the situation."

In another matter related to the Watergate investigation, former top presidential aides H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman have refused to answer questions in a civil suit concerning an alleged cover-up that occurred after the June 17 break-in at the Democratic National Committee's headquarters.

The two aides declined to answer questions about events that occurred after June 17 while giving depositions relating to the Democratic Party's \$6.4 million suit against officials of the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Their refusal was made on the grounds that anything occurring after June 17 was not relevant to the suit.

Maurice Dunie, lawyer for the Democrats, said yesterday, "We're going to go to court and test this claim of relevancy because we feel very strongly that what happened after June 17 is extremely relevant to our lawsuit."