

WXPPost

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Dealing With Dean and the Dollar

Two sets of current headlines should be enough to make all common sensible Americans exclaim, "This can't go on!" One set of headlines warns us that our dollars are losing value almost daily. The other, more prominent set recounts the latest chapter in the shabby story of the former counsel to the President, John Dean III.

Dean is a smooth-faced young man, who is reportedly obsessed by fear of going to jail because of his consciousness of his own good looks. By the direct testimony of Lieutenant General Vernon L. Walters, Dean repeatedly tried to involve the Central Intelligence Agency in the Watergate cover-up in a way that amounted to misprision of felony. If there is truth in half of what is being said, Dean has in fact been guilty of criminal acts.

Since the full extent of the Watergate horror began to be known, Dean has been continuously shopping around for a promise of immunity from prosecution, in return for his own promise to tell all. He has peddled this deal to Senate investigators, to federal prosecutors and even to newspaper reporters.

In the course of this search for a promise of immunity, Dean has also changed his own story radically — at least if the New York Times is to be believed. Some time ago, the Times reported that in long interviews, both federal and Senate investigators had discovered "Dean had no evidence to link Mr. Nixon either to prior knowledge of the Watergate bugging or to any subsequent cover-up."

Apparently, however, John Dean was lying then, unless he is lying now. This

choice is unavoidable, since Dean has now told the Senate investigators that he has quantities of evidence of just the kind he formerly denied having.

In addition, there is another choice between Dean's current story being a fabric of untruths, or the President of the United States being a liar.

You may ask why these bitterly unpalatable facts have any relation to our dollars' almost daily loss of value against both gold and other major foreign currencies. The answer lies in the fact the self-serving allegations of a

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bottom-dwelling slug like Dean are now widely taken to prove the President guilty of crime.

While this state of affairs continues, anything like effective government leadership is obviously impossible. In addition, every expert on the world money markets agrees that the uncertainties caused by the unresolved Watergate horror are feeding back into the monetary crisis. They are, in fact, one direct cause of all the dollars in all our pockets being continuously devalued. This is only one of several areas where effective government leadership is now desperately needed, moreover.

Hence the further need for common sensible Americans to warn, loudly and firmly, "This cannot go on." The President must be freed to lead, or he should cease to be President. But here we run, head on, into the preferences of the majority of the Senate Watergate investigating committee and its staff. They prefer it to go on as long as possible.

That was the real purpose of the committee investigators' recent advance unveiling of John Dean's latest story, with all its promise of startling revelations yet to come. Samuel Dash and the other committee investigators are now so eager to protect their flanks for a bleakly simple reason. Their mere investigation, with all its delightful publicity, will pretty certainly keep those who have been guilty of Watergate crimes out of the jail that John Dean so consumingly fears.

Chief committee investigator Dash has been plainly warned that this is the present law of the land by the Justice Department's special Watergate prosecutor, Arnhald Cox. Dean himself may even be so eager to tell his much-revised story to Dash and the Senators, precisely because his lawyers have told him that he will then be protected from jail under the Delaney decision of 1952, as just reported in this space.

If common sense prevails, therefore, the Senate Watergate investigating committee will immediately address itself to one subject and to one subject only — the truth or falsehood of a charge that President Nixon was a knowing participant in the Watergate crimes. If the President is even half-way proven to have been an accomplice in crime, it goes without saying



John Dean III

he should resign forthwith. Or he should be impeached.

Hence, this is a proper and necessary subject for Senatorial inquiry. The actual punishment of federal crimes, meanwhile, is only a proper subject of the federal courts. The courts should certainly not be blocked by Senatorial inquiry, just as effective leadership of government should not be indefinitely interrupted.