

**He Made the Most of It**

OVER

**John Dean's Big Day****By Douglas E. Kneeland**  
*New York Times***Washington**

John W. Dean III had his turn yesterday and the 34-year-old former counsel to the President made the most of it.

Back on April 19, 11 days before he was ousted from his job, he had issued his own statement to declare that he would not be made the White House "scapegoat" in the Watergate affair.

Yesterday, tight-mouthed and abidingly serious, he sat for more than six hours under the hot television lights at the witness table before the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign activities, telling his story to a watching nation.

As his wife, Maureen, blonde and outwardly serene, sat behind him, Dean doggedly and unfalteringly, his brow dry, his flat accent even and unemotional, read through his 245-page prepared statement.

**IMPACT**

To those listening and watching, it seemed as though the meticulous young lawyer from Ohio must have been keeping notes forever on everybody and everything that passed his way.

On and on he read, his head bowed over his telephone-booksized text, pausing only occasionally to sip from the glasses of water, iced tea and cola that cluttered the table in front of him.

As he talked, the names that emerged in his matter-of-fact recitation of those he said were connected with the Watergate affair or its cover-up could almost make up a who's who (or in some cases, who was who) of the White House Staff.



AP Wirephoto

**MAUREEN AND JOHN DEAN DURING ONE SHORT BREAK**  
He was making notes before resuming testimony at the afternoon session

Because of his April declaration that he would not be a scapegoat, Dean has been the most eagerly anticipated witness before the Senate committee to date. Last week, his testimony was postponed as the committee recessed in deference to the visit to this country of Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader.

#### CROWD

The expectation that Dean would implicate President Nixon and other leading administration officials in the "coverup" of the Watergate case drew one of the largest crowds the hearings have seen.

Some college students even camped out on the steps of the old Senate Office Building at 1 a.m. in order to be first in line. Waits for even standing room under the ornate chandeliers of the high-ceilinged caucus room were up to two or three hours, compared with ten or 15 minutes before the hearings last recessed.

Still, as the slender young lawyer read through his text, his lips scarcely moving, reminiscent of Humphrey Bogart, the audience, mixed but largely youthful, was unusually silent, hanging on each word and name.

Dean, dressed in a tan suit, blue shirt and green tie, said in the beginning that "it is far more easy for me to explain my own involvement" than "to testify about other people."

"Some of these people I will be referring to are friends," he said, "some are men I greatly admire and respect."

But before it was over he had implicated more than a score of them.

#### PORTRAIT

Himself he portrayed alternately as a sort of errand boy and messenger between others involved in the case and as a man troubled by the whole affair whose good advice was often ignored.

"It is my honest belief," he said, "that while the President was involved that he did not realize or appreciate at any time the implications of his involvement, and I think that when the facts come out I hope the president is forgiven."

The president, it turned out — at least in Dean's view — had also ignored his good advice.

He said that during a meeting on March 21 he had warned the President that there "was a cancer growing on the presidency and that if the cancer was not removed that the President himself would be killed by it."

#### REALIZATION

But at a later meeting the same day, he recalled, he suddenly realized that his advice that the Watergate "coverup" be ended was not being taken.

"The meeting with the President that afternoon with (H. R.) Haldeman and

(John D.) Ehrlichman was a tremendous disappointment to me," he said, "because it was quite clear that the coverup, as far as the White House was concerned was going to continue."

In contrast with some of the earlier days of the hearings, which began April 17, there weren't many chuckles yesterday.

One of the few came at the beginning, when Senator

Sam Ervin, the North Carolina Democrat who is chairman of the committee, said drily:

"I understand you have a statement to read."

It had been well-publicized for more than a week that Dean would read a statement of at least 150 pages. During the week's delay, according to his attorneys, the statement grew as he added to it.