

Dean Statement on Plea

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19—
Following is a statement that
John W. Dean 3d distributed
to the press after his guilty
plea today in the United
States District Court here:

Today I have pleaded guilty to the charge of participating with others in a conspiracy to obstruct justice in connection with the Watergate cover-up. I have pleaded because the charge is true and I am prepared to account for my actions, which I deeply regret.

As a result of my plea I have been promised nothing by the Government, but I shall continue to cooperate with the Government as I have since early April, 1973, in an effort to do my part to right the wrongs of Watergate.

The Government first made this offer, which I have accepted today, on May 22, 1973; however at that time I was not prepared to accept it. Initially I sought immunity from prosecution because I refused to be the

Watergate scapegoat. Events have resolved that matter, and I have confidence that I cannot and will not be made the scapegoat.

In making my decision to accept the Government's renewed offer, I sought advice and counsel from those whose judgment I value greatly. They agreed that my decision is the right decision, despite the fact that legally I had excellent technical and procedural potentials of obtaining a dismissal or an acquittal. But given the nature of the cover-up conspiracy, and the importance of restoring public confidence in our governmental processes, to have defeated the Government on legal technicalities would have, indeed, been a shallow victory.

I sincerely hope that my decision will facilitate and assist the Government in expediting its pursuit of justice. The nation's Watergate nightmare must end and hopefully others involved will also come forward and accept responsibility for their complicity.

10-20-73