

Scott Still Doubts Dean

--'I'm Not Backtracking'

Washington

Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott yesterday reaffirmed his challenge to the credibility of John W. Dean III, declaring, "I'm not backtracking one single inch."

The Pennsylvania senator has suggested the former White House counsel should be charged with perjury for sworn statements concerning President Nixon and the Watergate scandal.

Scott was questioned by reporters at the White House following a federal court statement Thursday by a special Watergate prosecutor, who said he has no basis for "believing Dean lied under oath."

Scott said of his own statements, made earlier: "I believe them. I stand by them. I am convinced of them, period and period and period. I am not going to comment further. I am not backtracking one single inch."

Scott and other GOP leaders had just met with Mr. Nixon.

At one point Scott told the reporters he assumed special prosecutor Leon Jaworski had all the information that he has seen. At another point Scott expressed hope Jaworski "would have available to him ultimately all the material that's been made available to me."

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler told reporters at a subsequent briefing, "as far as I know we have provided the special prosecutor's office the conversations Dean may have been involved in" that were requested by Jaworski.

Ziegler said he thought it unlikely Scott saw any material that has not been turned over to Jaworski.

Last month Scott said he was given access to materials, presumably transcripts or summaries of White House tapes, and reported at the time they cast doubt on Dean's contention — in testi-

mony before the Senate Watergate Committee — that Mr. Nixon knew of the Watergate —coverup prior to March 21, 1973.

The material reportedly was shown to Scott by White House staff chief Alexander M. Haig Jr. The senator first revealed his conclusions at a White House news conference.

At yesterday's meeting with newsmen, Scott said he found it remarkable the special prosecutor's office would express full confidence in "a confessed felon" who, he said, admitted under oath to the Senate committee that he had misappropriated funds.

The senator said a courtroom statement by Assistant Special Prosecutor Richard J. Davis backing Dean's reliability "shakes credulity."

When Scott was asked if he felt he might have been used as a patsy, Scott said he has taken care that he not be placed in that position.

Associated Press