

Negotiations on Dean Book Reported

By ERIC PACE

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, the publisher, has nearly completed negotiations toward acquiring the rights to a forthcoming largely autobiographical book by the dismissed White House counsel, John W. Dean 3d, a highly placed publishing industry informant reported last night.

"I have no comment; we can't confirm it at this time," said the concern's president, Roger W. Straus Jr., who was reached at his home here.

Nor was there any immediate comment from Mr. Dean, who contended at last year's Senate Watergate hearings that President Nixon had known of efforts to cover up the Watergate affair.

Mr. Dean's literary agent has been asking \$250,000 for rights to the book, the informants said, and it is to include an account of life in the Nixon White House and an analysis of how government operates.

Mr. Dean has not yet begun writing the book, they said, but he has been taking notes for it.

He has written a letter explaining his intentions to his agent, who was not identified.

Mr. Dean is understood to have indicated that the book would not contain any sensational Watergate disclosures because he expected that by publication time he would have testified in detail about the scandal before various investigators.

At least one other well-known New York publishing concern had been competing for the right to publish a work by Mr. Dean, the informants said. They said the other company bid less than Farrar, Straus, which has also published several works by Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn.

No details were available as to how much, if any, work on the book Mr. Dean has done.

Dean Disbarred

Earlier this month Mr. Dean was disbarred by the Virginia state bar association for alleged misdeeds connected with Watergate.

Former Vice President Spiro

T. Agnew has also made literary plans.

Mr. Agnew, who is appealing a three-judge panel's recommendation that he be disbarred in the State of Maryland, is writing a suspense novel about a vice presidential with presidential ambitions. Other publishing sources reported yesterday that the Playboy Press, with a bid of less than \$200,000 leading several bidders for the right to publish the book, which is to be serialized by the Ladies Home Journal. The book publisher is to be named Tuesday, said an executive at the Scott Meredith Literary agency, which represents Mr. Agnew.