



John N. Mitchell receiving a kiss from Walter C. Bonner, lawyer for Maurice H. Stans, at post-trial party Sunday in the Essex House. United Press International

Juror Says Dean Played Minor Role

By MARCIA CHAMBERS

A vice president of the First National Bank who served as a juror in the Mitchell-Stans trial said yesterday the panel that acquitted the two former Cabinet officers Sunday considered that John W. Dean 3d had had a "relatively minor part in this case."

Andrew Choa, the juror, said that Mr. Dean "certainly was not ignored" in the jurors' deliberations but emphasized that the role of President Nixon's former counsel in the Government's case had, in effect, involved only one count of perjury against former Attorney General John H. Mitchell.

Mr. Choa's statement would tend to contradict somewhat reaction from the Nixon Administration that Mr. Dean's credibility as a witness had been seriously challenged.

"John Dean's only role in connection with this whole thing was one perjury count," said Mr. Choa, 48 years old, who is in charge of overseas investments for the bank.

Mr. Dean's credibility came into question, a number of jurors said, because he admitted pleading guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice in the Watergate case. But the credibility of a number of witnesses played a major role in the jurors' decision to acquit Mr. Mitchell and former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, they said.

Indeed, the panel requested Federal Judge Lee P. Gagliardi to reread his charge on the law governing credibility. The judge told the jurors that in assessing

credibility they "may or may not" consider evidence that a witness had previously been convicted of crimes.

"I felt that John Dean believed that, if he had testified, when his sentence came up it would help him," said Sybil Kucharski, the jury foreman.

Under cross-examination by Peter Fleming, Mr. Mitchell's attorney, Mr. Dean admitted that his "cooperation" with the Government in this trial would, he hoped, be noted by Judge John J. Sirica when Mr. Dean is sentenced in the Watergate case.

Mr. Mitchell, 60 and Mr. Stans, 66, both former leaders of President Nixon's re-election campaign, had been accused of perjury and conspiring to impede a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of Robert L. Vesco's financial holdings in return for a secret \$200,000 cash contribution to the re-election campaign.

Mr. Dean testified that at Mr. Mitchell's request he had gotten in touch with William J. Casey, then the S.E.C. chairman, about the status of four subpoenas issued to Mr. Vesco's associates to appear before the commission.

This was the count of which Mr. Choa spoke, and it involved one of six perjury counts

against the former Attorney General.

Yesterday a number of the principals were mulling over just how the trial had changed their lives.

There was Marty Herbst, the media analyst hired by Mr. Fleming to give behind-the-scenes help in selecting the jury. Mr. Herbst had advised Mr. Fleming to choose clerical and blue-collar workers for the jury, persons who were "homebodies, to the Right, those more concerned with inflation than Watergate." Mr. Herbst said he was feeling just fine about the outcome.

It could not be ascertained if all of Mr. Herbst's theories were, in fact, the motivating factor in the juror's decision.

Dash Comments on Dean

LOS ANGELES, April 29 (UPI) —Sam Dash, chief counsel for the Senate Watergate committee, said today that the acquittal of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Stans had nothing to do with the credibility of Mr. Dean in other cases.

Mr. Dash said the question in Watergate was not Mr. Dean's word against that of others but the corroboration that "may or may not exist from White House documents and tapes."