

# Dean Sentenced -- One to 4 Years

## He'll Go To Prison Sept. 3

Washington

John W. Dean III, once President Nixon's counsel and now his chief accuser in the Watergate affair, was sentenced yesterday to a minimum of one year in prison and a maximum of four years for his admitted role in the Watergate cover-up.

He is to begin serving his term on September 3. Shortly thereafter, he is expected to be called as a major prosecution witness in both the Watergate coverup trial and, if Mr. Nixon is impeached, in the Senate trial of the impeachment charges.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica imposed the sentence before a courtroom crowded with spectators.

He did so without explanation or comment, after first listening impassively as Dean asked for "compassion" and "understanding" and said he was trying to "right the wrong" he had done.

Dean kept his customary composure as the judge announced the sentence. Sirica added that he would recommend that Dean be placed in a minimum security prison. Dean then hurried from the courtroom, escorted by federal marshals and looking shaken.

Dean took the basement garage exit in an effort to avoid newsmen, and when a reporter met him there and asked for a comment, he

said, "No, I'm sorry," and stepped quickly into a waiting sedan.

Fifteen other persons, including the seven original Watergate defendants as well as a number of former White House and Nixon campaign aides, have already been sentenced to prison for the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the

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Watergate complex, or Watergate-related offenses.

Some of those sentences have been less than Dean's, the shortest sentence being 30 days for Herbert L. Porter, a Nixon campaign aide, and the longest, the term of six years and eight months to 20 years given to G. Gordon Liddy, a former Nixon re-election campaign aide.

A 16th person, former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, received a suspended sentence.

Dean, for his part, had faced a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine as a result of his guilty plea last October 19 to a charge of conspiring to obstruct justice.

Dean had originally hoped to receive complete immunity for his cooperation.

Indeed, he received immunity for some of the information he provided initially. However, sources at the prosecution office have said the prosecutors were able to find some evidence against him that was not covered by previous grants of immunity and, citing this, they were able to convince Dean to agree to plead to the count of conspiring to obstruct justice.

And, because of his extensive cooperation with the prosecution, the Senate Watergate committee and the House Judiciary Committee as well, a number of persons — including Dean, apparently — had expected his sentence to be substantially less than the maximum.

Maximums are rarely applied. John D. Ehrlichman, for instance, was sentenced earlier this week to a term of 20 months to five years, out of a possible 20 years and \$30,000 fine, after his conviction in the so-called plumbers break-in case. And some Watergate sentences have been notably lenient, such as the sentence given to Kleindienst for his conviction for failing to testify fully to the Senate Judiciary Committee — a suspended 30-day jail term and suspended \$100 fine.

Before sentencing, Dean said: "I stand here at the mercy of the court. The only thing I would ask for is your compassion and your understanding."

"I have done wrong. I realize the wrong I have done. What bothers me most is that I was involved in corruption of government and misuse of high office."

"I realize to say I am sorry is really not enough. I have tried for 18 months to do everything I can to right the wrongs, and regardless of what the court judges me I will continue on the same course."

Sirica denied a motion to delay sentencing until Sirica had time to listen to recently released White House tapes. Dean's lawyer said the tapes would show Dean tried to end the Watergate cover-up and has been telling the truth in his testimony.

"Dean is the one who broke the case for the government," said attorney Charles Shaffer in urging a light sentence for Dean.

Associate prosecutor James Neal, who said Dean had cooperated "fully and unhesitatingly," said the government did not oppose the motion to delay sentencing. Neal said it might be wise to defer sentencing until a jury had been seated for the Watergate coverup trial of six former Nixon administration and campaign aides scheduled to start Sept. 9.

The ninth former White House aide to be sentenced, Dean had sought total immunity in return for his testimony, but the prosecutor's office insisted he plead guilty to at least one count.

Sirica said he was giving Dean extra time before beginning the sentence because of the illness of Dean's mother-in-law in California. Dean's wife, Maureen, who was not present at the sentencing, has been caring for her mother.

In five days of nationally televised testimony last year, Dean said he attended a series of meetings in which plans were discussed to wire-tap Democrats in the 1972 presidential election year.

It was the arrest of five persons inside Democratic party headquarters in the Watergate office building here on June 17, 1972, that began the series of scandals ultimately leading to impeachment proceedings against the President.

Dean said he believed the President knew the original Watergate investigation was being covered up. Mr. Nixon has denied this.

Dean testified on a broad spectrum of Watergate issues from alleged misuse of the Internal Revenue Service to coverup both items were included in impeachment articles approved by the House Judiciary Committee last weekend.

*New York Times*



*AP Wirephoto*

JOHN DEAN, AFTER SENTENCING  
**He asked for 'compassion, understanding'**