

John Dean Going to Prison Today

Washington

John W. Dean III, who provided evidence that helped topple a President and send his aides to prison, goes behind bars himself today for his role in the Watergate coverup.

Dean is to turn himself in to U.S. marshals to begin the 1-to-4 year prison term he received last month for his guilty plea to a single count of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

The surrender point is the Federal Courthouse where, in a few weeks, Dean will be a prosecution witness at the trial of his once-powerful colleagues accused of covering up the scandal in the Nixon White House.

Former President Nixon, whom Dean served as White House counsel during the critical early months of the Watergate crisis, has been named an unindicted co-conspirator and has been subpoenaed as a trial witness.

The trial is to begin September 30 before U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

Prison officials said Dean will be taken to an undisclosed location in the area "until he is no longer needed" by Watergate prosecutors. The balance of his term is expected to be served at the federal prison camp at Lompoc, Calif., near his home.

The slender, 35-year-old Dean announced publicly in mid-April last year he would not be made the Watergate scapegoat, and began cooperating with prosecutors. When Mr. Nixon fired him two weeks later, Dean took along many critical documents that underscored his dramatic testimony before the nationally televised Senate Watergate hearings.

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