

# DEAN BEGINS TERM FOR COVER-UP ROLE

Former White House Counsel Is Serving 1 to 4 Years

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 (AP) —John W. Dean 3d began his prison sentence today, more than a year after he publicly confessed his complicity in the Watergate cover-up and ac-

cused the President of the United States of also being involved. As Mr. Dean surrendered to begin a one-to-four year term for obstructing justice, he refused to comment when asked whether former President Richard M. Nixon should also be charged with Watergate crimes.

Nor would he say whether he felt that events since his dramatic appearance last year before the televised Senate Committee hearings had vindicated him.

The former White House

counsel surrendered to Chief United States Marshal George K. McKinney in mid-afternoon. He walked rapidly through a crowd of newsmen who had waited for him for nearly six hours in a broiling sun.

His wife, Maureen, a constant companion at the Senate hearings, did not accompany him.

A Justice Department spokesman said that Mr. Dean would be imprisoned in the Baltimore-Washington area to make it easier for him to appear as a witness at "trial, trials or investigations," yet to come.

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The likely place is Fort Holabird in Baltimore.

Mr. Dean, an experienced witness in Watergate-related trials, will probably next be a Government witness against H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and four others at the cover-up trial scheduled to begin Sept. 30.

He pleaded guilty last Oct. 19 to a single count alleging conspiracy to obstruct justice and defraud the United States. He was subsequently disbarred as a lawyer in Virginia and the District of Columbia.

United States District Judge

John J. Sirica sentenced him on Aug. 2, allowing him one month to straighten out his affairs.

Mr. Dean, who will be 36 years old on Oct. 14, succeeded Mr. Ehrlichman as White House counsel when Mr. Ehrlichman became President Nixon's No. 2 lieutenant.

He was one of the first White House insiders to go to prosecutors with a story of high-level efforts to keep Watergate from reaching the Oval Office in the White House.

"It is my honest belief that while the President was involved that he did not realize

ment," Mr. Dean told the Senate implications of his involvement or appreciate at any time the Watergate Committee. "I think that when the facts come out I hope the President is forgiven."

Mr. Dean was photographed and fingerprinted before beginning the drive to the detention facility, some 50 miles away.

He is one of nine former White House aides who have been sentenced to prison terms. His sentence requires that he serve a minimum one year in prison, with no time off for good behavior.