

'Value of Truth'

Weicker for Cut In Dean Sentence

Washington

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (Rep-Conn.) has asked U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica to reduce the sentence of former White House counsel John W. Dean III.

In a letter to Sirica dated Tuesday (and released by Weicker's office late yesterday, the Connecticut Republican said, "Whatever hurt John Dean did his fellow countrymen was more than replaced by the risks which he took on their behalf."

Weicker said it was his understanding that Dean had

moved or soon would move for a reduction in his one-to-four-year prison term to which Sirica sentenced him for obstruction of justice in the Watergate case.

Dean began serving his sentence last September 3 at a federal institution in Maryland.

"I have known John Dean since May of 1973," Weicker's letter said. "Since that time I have heard this young man step out from under the protection of the most powerful office in the world to tell the truth of the abuse of that office to the American people.

"There is no question in my mind that did he not so

act the whole truth would never have surfaced (at least not in timely fashion)," Weicker added. "There is also no doubt in my mind that the former President (Richard M. Nixon) and his intimates did everything possible to destroy this man, his family and associates.

"I do not defend either those matters of which Mr. Dean stands convicted or those indiscretions to which he has owned up. I do, however, want to see the value of truth and courage re-established in this nation . . .

Weicker said it was his understanding that it is appropriate for those acquainted with sentenced individuals to write letters on their behalf.

The Connecticut senator was the most outspoken member of the Senate Watergate committee during the panel's explosive hearings in the summer of 1973. He repeatedly defended Dean's credibility.

Weicker and Dean have been friends since that time, and the senator is living in a house he bought from Dean after the ex-White House aide pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate with the special Watergate force.

Associated Press