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Dean's Wife Says Nation Backs Him

United Press International

Maureen Dean said yesterday that the majority of the public apparently supports her husband's decision to speak out about the Watergate cover-up.

"I have never been confronted by anyone who wasn't just absolutely 100 per cent for my husband. There has never been one negative remark," she said.

Interviewed on the "Today" Show (NBC, WRC), Mrs. Dean said that in her eyes her husband is a hero because "if he had not come forward the cover-up would still be going on."

John W. Dean III has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to obstruct justice and is serving a one-to-four-year prison term at Ft. Holabird, a federal detention center in Baltimore. Three other former top Nixon aides, Charles W. Colson, Herbert W. Kalmbach and Jeb Stuart Magruder, are also confined there.

The four men are "friendly" to each other, Mrs. Dean said. "They have something in common. I don't really know how much they talk but they are extremely cordial to each other. And under the conditions, which are kind of depressing, they help each other out."