ean Affirms Faith n Claim by Colson

By Leroy F. Aarons Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15-John W. Dean III said today he fully trusts the accuracy of Charles W. Colson's statement to him that former President Nixon had received assurances the Supreme Court would protect the secrecy of the White House tapes.

His reaffirmation of an earlier comment to an NBC television interviewer came at a news conference that he and his wife, Maureen, held on the patio of their \$130,000 Trousdale Estates home in the hills overlooking Los Angeles.

NBC said Dean's comment was denied by a spokesman for the Supreme Court and for Chief Justice Warren E.
Burger, whose name Dean said had been mentioned by Colson. The network said a Nixon The network said a Nixon the coverage also denied the allegation.

Dean's news conference was the first formal meeting with the press for the key Watergate figure since U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica released him last week from a federal prison at Ft. Holabird, Md., where he had been serving a one- to four-

Dean, who seemed thinner than in the past, said he "had no reason to doubt" what he said Colson, former White though Weicker at first had

with Justice Burger shortly after this suit (to block release of the tapes) was filed . . . and it gave him confidence that he indeed was going to win the lawsuit."

edge and his ability to substantiate his revelations," Dean commented.

A spokesman for Weicker confirmed that the senator had talked with Colson in re-

Dean said he learned this in a series of conversations with other matters and is looking Colson, who is still serving into the information given Colson, who is still serving into the information given time at Holabird following a him by Colson. But the spokesguilty plea on a Watergate related charge.

The Supreme mately ordered Court ulti-the tapes mately ordered the tapes turned over to the District Court, and the tapes formed ordered his closest aides, John N. Mitchell, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, and John D. Ehrlichman, for participating in the Watergate cover-up.

up, said today that Colson has also been talking to Sen. Lo-well P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn), a member of the Senate Watergate committee, about domestic involvement of the CIA.

"The CIA had been lurking around the fringes of Watergate," said Dean, "and Colson had actually read the CIA's central file on the matter, and found it quite revealing."

Dean said he had arranged than in the past, said he "nad no reason to doubt" what he said Colson, former White House special counsel, told him in prison.

Colson said, according to Dean, that Nixon "had talked pressed with Colson's knowl-

confirmed that the senator had talked with Colson in recent weeks about the CIA and man declined to disclose the nature of the information or whether Weicker considered it significant.

Dean also said he is "of the school" that believes Nixon the basis not only for Mr. Nixon's resignation but also the criminal conviction of three of his closest aides. The National Action of the convicted of the see the man convicted of the convicted see the man convicted of an offense."

In time, people with broader historical perspective will credit the achievements of a man who was touched with "a stroke of greatness,"

"I would like very much to talk to the former President ... Whether he wants to see me is another question," he added.

Seated in front of his elaborate, contemporary, Spanish-style stucco home, Dean acstyle stucco home, Dean acknowledged he was uneasy about profiting from the Watergate affair. He has contracted for a book, planned lecture tours, and is discussing an exclusive contract with

But, Dean noted, he is still in debt. He has sold a more expensive home, his car, and his boat in order to survive during nearly two years in which "I spent all my time giving testimony, working with investigators and being incarcerated," he said.

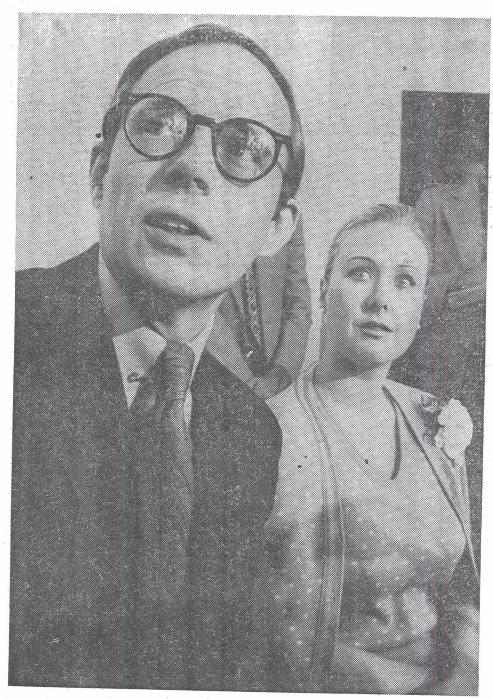
"I'm bothered by it frankly"

-the exploitation aspectsbut "I don't know what else to do, he said. His book, to be titled "Decision of Consetled "Decision of Conse-quence," will detail Dean's de-cision to "leave the ranks" of the faithful around Nixon and begin talking to prosecutors. He conceded that "self survival . . . a strong instrong stinct" was one of the factors.

Dean said he is also writing a book of essays and a novel about the first black woman candidate for the Supreme Court.

Reacting to G. Gordon Liddy's recent characterization of him as a "Judas," Dean said Liddy must have read a different version of the Bible.

"Judas hadn't forewarned Christ," Dean remarked.



Associated Press John Dean and wife, Maureen, talk to reporters at their Los Angeles home.