

Prosecutors Congratulate Themselves on Tactical Brilliance of having Dean Appear to be Punished

John Dean had become prosecutors' primary witness against his former colleagues, but he'd also played a leadership role in running the cover-up. Prosecutors realized it would not look good if he escaped unscathed.

"Moral balancing aside, the *realpolitik* of the situation was that Dean would not be an effective witness at trial if he got a free ride. His credibility would be substantially diminished by his making a deal with the prosecutors to implicate others only if the prosecutors completely forgave his own deep involvement. The evident effect of Dean's prison sentence later, on the jurors at the Watergate cover-up trial confirmed our tactical judgment. As a man who was already serving a long jail term for doing what he testified he had been instructed to do by Haldeman and Ehrlichman, Dean made a measurably greater impression than if he had never been charged or punished for his acts."

Ben-Veniste, Richard and George Frampton. *Stonewall, The Real Story of the Watergate Prosecution* (Simon and Schuster, 1977), p. 107.

What they fail to mention is that Dean's 1-4 year sentence had been scheduled to coincide with the Cover-up Trial. Once that trial had ended, he was set free completely, without probation or parole. Instead of going to prison, he had been placed in a witness protection facility and never spent a single night in jail.