

June 30, 1970

C. F.

FG 6-11-1 / Dean, John

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM: Dwight L. Chapin

RE: John Dean

As you have undoubtedly noticed, John Dean is a very smooth, cool calculated, tough and probably very self-centered individual. He obviously is very deeply involved in what he is doing at the Justice Department, feels a great loyalty to John Mitchell, Dick Kleindienst and the organization at Justice and is not about ready to leap at a job at the White House.

I like him. He impresses me as a type who would be a very hard worker and I am sure he would do a fine job.

At the present time at Justice, he is doing a considerable amount of traveling, plus he is in charge of quite a number of young lawyers (eleven), and he obviously enjoys his work very much.

He enjoys dealing with the substantive issues involved at Justice and from the legislative side -- seeing his proposals through Congress. He made the comment to me this morning that he has known several people on the White House staff both with President Johnson and President Nixon. The thing I believe that concerned him is the degree of crisis orientation which these individuals seemed to have. I don't believe that he can project himself into a White House role. Either that or he is not letting his mind go as far as to envision a White House position.

I have a real hang-up with the degree of commitment that he would have to the President -- something that I feel that the person who is Counsel to the President should have. Maybe it is his arrogance -- I am not sure.

I question how well he will fit into the White House Staff setup--if he is taken on board. He -- in my opinion -- would work out fine; however,

as with anyone new, I imagine that he would receive some flak. Since he has worked with several of the White House staff previously and has a good reputation with all of them, perhaps he would fit in better and faster than I envision.

My suspicions about his loyalty to the Justice Department and to the Attorney General and Kleindienst were pretty well borne out in my discussions with him last night. I believe that he has his eyes on bigger things at Justice and that in his chosen profession, there is more to be gained in his mind by his staying at Justice. I believe that the Attorney General has also insinuated this to him.

In order to get him, you have to come on very strong in terms of (1) the need and scope of the job; and (2) the association with the President.

I worked on both of these areas last night; however, it was a real chore to try to make the points since all of my leading questions were switched by him to other areas and I found it very hard to make a good sale.

DLC:NY