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FEDERAL GRAND JURY ON CHARGES OF CON HALDEMAN, EHRLICH

York Times

LATE CITY EDITION

Weather: Chance of showers later today, tonight. Milder tomorrow. Temp. range: today 36-46; Friday 43-49. Additional details on Page 62.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1974

20c beyond 50-mile radius of New York City, except Long Island. Higher in air delivery cities.

15 CENTS

INDICTS 7 NIXON AIDES SPIRACY ON WATERGATE; MAN, MITCHELL ON LIST



John N. Mitchell
Former Attorney General



H. R. Haldeman
Headed White House staff



John D. Ehrlichman
Was Presidential adviser



Charles W. Colson
Former White House lawyer



Robert C. Mardian
1972 campaign coordinator



Kenneth W. Parkinson
Lawyer for campaign unit



Gordon C. Strachan
Assisted Mr. Haldeman

COLSON IS NAMED

A Question of Veracity of the President Is Indirectly Raised

By ANTHONY RIPLEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 1—A Federal grand jury today indicted seven men, all former officials of President Nixon's Administration or of his 1972 re-election campaign, on charges of covering up the Watergate scandal.

Never before have so many close and trusted advisers of an American President faced criminal accusations in a single indictment.

All were charged with conspiracy — a conspiracy, the grand jury said, that continued

Five pages of Watergate material with indictment text begin on Page 14.

"up to and including" today; six were charged additionally with obstruction of justice; two with perjury and three with false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the grand jury or both.

The indictment accused one defendant, H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief

of staff, of lying when he quoted the President as saying "it would be wrong" to raise hush money for the perpetrator of the original Watergate burglary—a break-in June 17, 1972, at the Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Endorsed Statement

This indirectly raised a question about Mr. Nixon's veracity because he endorsed Mr. Haldeman at a news conference last Aug. 22. The President recalled a meeting at the White House at which clemency for the Watergate defendants and financial support for their families was discussed. Mr. Nixon said he had told his White House counsel, John W. Dean 3d, "John it, is wrong, it won't work."

With the indictment, the grand jury handed to Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the Federal District Court here a sealed report, accompanied by a bulky briefcase reportedly containing information about Mr. Nixon's role in the Watergate affair.

This information was presumably intended for the House Judiciary Committee, which is considering a motion to impeach the President and put him on trial before the Senate.

The defendants and the charges against them are as follows:

John N. Mitchell, former Attorney General and director of Mr. Nixon's 1968 and 1972 Presidential campaigns—conspiracy, obstruction of justice, false statements to the F.B.I., false statements to the grand jury and perjury.

Mr. Haldeman—conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury.

John D. Ehrlichman, former assistant to the President for domestic affairs—conspiracy, obstruction of justice, false statements to the F.B.I. and false statements to the grand jury.

Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to the President—conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

Robert C. Mardian, former aide to Mr. Mitchell in the 1972 campaign—conspiracy.

Kenneth W. Parkinson, attorney for the Committee for the Re-election of the President—conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

Gordon C. Strachan, former aide to Mr. Haldeman—conspiracy, obstruction of justice and false statements to the grand jury.

The key conspiracy count

Continued on Page 16, Column 1

MAUREEN. Happy Birthday my darling wife. My love always, Murray—ADVT.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

against all seven defendants charged that they "and other persons to the grand jury known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate and agree together and with each other" to commit several Federal offenses.

It cited two statutes that prohibit the making of false statements and declarations to Federal agencies and a third prohibiting efforts to prevent Federal agencies from transacting their official business "honestly and impartially."

It specifically named the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department as agencies the defendants allegedly attempted to prevent from carrying out their duties.

The 24 separate counts in the indictment allege destruction of evidence in the case, making false statements to the Federal agencies and before the Senate Watergate committee, gathering up cash and making payments to the defendants in the original Watergate burglary trial, and giving assurances of executive clemency to the seven men accused in the break-in.

Arraignment March 9

Judge Sirica set arraignment for March 9 and, later in the day, announced that he had assigned himself to try the case.

Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, is expected to seek further indictments in the next few weeks.

The grand jury, which was originally sworn in June 5, 1972, before the burglary, was told it would have further work.

In all, three grand juries are sitting in the Watergate case. The one that acted today could return further indictments, although there is no assurance that it will.

Mr. Jaworski told the judge that the case could take "three or four months to try" and called it "undoubtedly long and protracted."

The judge then read an order advising all concerned to refrain from making statements outside the court "concerning any aspect of this case that is likely to interfere with the

rights of the accused or the public to a fair trial by an impartial jury."

In some of the 31 Watergate-related cases that have gone before the courts, defense lawyers have contended that excessive pretrial publicity hurt their clients' chances for a fair trial.

The indictment today had been delayed by the selection of a jury in New York City in the trial of Mr. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans in connection with an illegal \$200,000 cash gift to the re-election campaign from Robert L. Vesco, the fugitive financier. The indictment here was released after the New York jury was sequestered.

If convicted of the charges issued today, the accused face the following penalties:

Mr. Haldeman, a maximum of 25 years in prison and \$16,000 in fines.

Mr. Ehrlichman, a maximum of 25 years in prison and \$40,000 in fines.

Mr. Colson and Mr. Parkinson, a maximum of 10 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.

Mr. Mitchell, a maximum of 30 years in prison and \$42,000 in fines.

Mr. Strachan, a maximum of 15 years in prison and \$20,000 in fines.

Mr. Mardian, a maximum of five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines.

The indictment listed five counts against Mr. Haldeman. One count stated that Mr. Haldeman lied under oath before the Senate Watergate committee when he quoted the President as saying it would be no trouble to raise \$1-million to pay in hush money to the original seven Watergate conspirators "but it would be wrong."

Ehrlichman Charges

Mr. Haldeman stated to the committee that he had listened to a tape recording of that day's meeting and that it confirmed his recollection.

"I am absolutely positive," he told the committee.

That remark was underscored by the special prosecutor's office as perjury.

The other counts against Mr. Haldeman included a general conspiracy count that all seven faced. It charged they conspired to obstruct justice, make false statements, defraud the Government and deprive the Government of its right to have its officials transact business "honestly and impartially, free from corruption, fraud, improper and undue influence, dishonesty, unlawful impairment and obstruction."

These actions, the indictment said, included attempting to persuade the Central Intelli-

gence Agency to provide financial assistance to the original seven men convicted in the Watergate burglary, to obtain their release from jail, to remove and destroy documents, to plan deceptive and false testimony, to secretly raise and distribute money and to make offers of "leniency, executive clemency and other benefits."

Mr. Ehrlichman was named in five counts. In addition to the over-all conspiracy charge, he was accused of obstruction of justice, making a false statement to the Federal Bureau of

Investigation, and making, on two occasions, false statements to the grand jury.

The grand jury said, for instance, that Mr. Ehrlichman lied when he testified before it in May, 1973, that he did not remember telling Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's personal attorney, that raising money for the original Watergate defendants should be kept secret.

Also, the indictment contended, Mr. Ehrlichman lied to the F.B.I. when "he stated that he had neither received nor was he in possession of any information relative to the break-in other than what he had read in the way of newspaper accounts of that incident."

One overt act in the conspiracy charged to Mr. Colson was a telephone conversation in which he and E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the convicted Watergate conspirators, discussed "the need to make additional payments" to the original Watergate defendants.

Mr. Mitchell faces six counts of conspiracy, obstruction of justice, false declaration to a grand jury and making a false statement to the F.B.I.

It is alleged, for example, that on Sept. 14, 1972, when he appeared before the grand jury and was asked if he knew of any plans to spy on the Democrats, he falsely answered: "Certainly not, because, if there had been, I would have shut it off as being entirely nonproductive at that particular time of the campaign."

Many of Mr. Mitchell's allegedly false statements were hedged with phrases such as "No, I don't recall that, No" and "I have no such recollection."

Mr. Parkinson, who faces two counts, was named in the conspiracy count as meeting in mid-July, 1972, with Mr. Mitchell and John W. Dean 3d.

Mr. Dean is a key witness for the special prosecutor and was Mr. Nixon's counsel at the White House.

The indictment states that

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOHN N. MITCHELL, HARRY R. HALDEMAN, JOHN D. EHRlichMAN, CHARLES W. COLSON, ROBERT C. MARDIAN, KENNETH W. PARKINSON, and GORDON STRACHAN,

Defendants.

Criminal No.

Violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1001, 1503, 1621, and 1623 (conspiracy, false statements to a government agency, obstruction of justice, perjury and false declarations.)

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

Introduction

1. On or about June 17, 1972, Bernard L. Barker, Virgilio R. Gonzalez, Eugenio R. Martinez, James W. McCord, Jr. and Frank L. Sturgis were arrested in the offices of the Democratic National Committee, located in the Watergate office building, Washington, D. C., while attempting to photograph documents and repair a surreptitious elec-

Part of the first page of the indictment handed up yesterday in Washington

Mr. Parkinson met with the two other men at the headquarters of the Committee for the Re-election of the President and "Mitchell advised Dean to obtain F.B.I. reports of the investigation into the Watergate break-in for Parkinson and others."

Cash for Defendants

Mr. Strachan faces two counts, one in the conspiracy and the other for making a false declaration before the grand jury concerning the \$350,000 in cash kept by Mr. Haldeaman in a safe and ultimately allegedly used to pay the original seven defendants for their cooperation.

The indictment states that he lied in telling how the money had been handled.

Mr. Mardian was charged solely with participation in the

conspiracy. Among the overt acts in which he was said to have been involved was a June 24, 1972, meeting at which he and Mr. Mitchell "suggested to Dean that the C.I.A. be requested to provide covert funds for the assistance" of the original Watergate defendants.

At least two figures who appeared at the Senate hearings have said they are connected with events mentioned in the indictment today but were not charged. They are L. Patrick Gray 3d, former director of the F.B.I., who admitted burning evidence with his Christmas trash; and Anthony Ulasewicz, a former New York City policeman who said he handled money that went to the original defendants.