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Charges Dropped Against Mardian

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The Watergate special prosecutor yesterday formally dropped Watergate cover-up charges against former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian.

The move came in papers filed with U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica asking that the charges be dismissed.

Mardian was convicted Jan. 1, 1975, of one count of conspiring to obstruct justice as a result of his conduct in the Justice Department during the Watergate break-in investigation.

Last October, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the conviction, mainly on so remote he should not have been tried with the central figures—former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides John D. Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman.

Mitchell, Haldeman and Ehrlichman were convicted along with Mardian and their convictions were upheld by the court of appeals. They are now appealing to the Supreme Court.

Rather than retry Mardian, who now lives in Arizona, Special Prosecutor Charles Ruff decided to drop charges.