

Grand Jury That Got Nixon's

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The final Watergate grand jury, the third necessary to unravel the scheme of crimes that brought down the administration of former President Richard M. Nixon, was dismissed yesterday by U.S. District Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr. with an admonition to its members that its oath of secrecy "follows you to your grave."

The grand jury, while returning only one indictment in its 18 months of existence, has one current secret to which only it—of all the Watergate investigative bodies including the Senate Watergate Committee and the House Judiciary Committee—has been privy.

That is the direct testimony of former President Nixon, taken two weeks ago by special Watergate prosecutors and two grand jurors in an unprecedented California session of the panel in which the former President testified for 11 hours under oath.

Although the final official Watergate grand jury has been discharged, the Watergate Special Prosecutor's Office could present new or already-gathered information to regular grand ju-

ries empaneled for other purposes in the federal court system. Court sources here say arrangements have been made for the prosecutors to use sitting grand juries if they deem it necessary.

But the discharge of the last grand jury specifically empaneled to probe Watergate and related crimes makes today the first time in three years that a court of or congressional body has not been actively probing the Nixon Administration's misdeeds.

The first grand jury that became involved in the Watergate scandal was a regularly empaneled grand jury that was in session the week following the June 17, 1972, break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate office complex.

Its normal 18-month term was extended to 30 months as it continued to probe the break-in and the subsequent coverup.

The 14 persons it indicted included former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and two top former White House aides, John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. (Bob) Haldeman.

The first grand jury also compiled a report on Nixon that was forwarded to

the House Judiciary Committee and was used in voting his impeachment.

By August of 1973, the special prosecutor's office considered a second grand jury necessary. This grand jury returned indictments in the break-in of the office of Pentagon Papers codefendant Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, a wide range of campaign contribution violations, and a bribery charge against former Treasury Secretary John Connally. It heard evidence that led to the guilty plea of former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst as well.

The third grand jury, which was disbanded yesterday, was formed on Jan. 7, 1974, and heard testimony on a wide range of subjects ranging from the alleged handling of campaign contributions by Nixon's friend C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo, misuse of federal agencies, wiretaps, and assorted illegal campaign contribution violations.

Investigations into those specific areas still are considered open by the special prosecutor's office, despite the disbanding of the grand jury that heard the testimony.

Although its only indictment concerned a documents appraiser and an attorney who were involved in alleg-

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edly falsifying Nixon's tax returns, prosecutors were quick to point out that these grand jurors heard evidence concerning numerous crimes to which defendants subsequently pleaded rather than be indicted.

The third grand jury also had another, unique function as it began to wind down its term. Community activists asked for, and were granted, permission to appear before the grand jury in attempts to seek indictments in an alleged coverup of the reasons for a building collapse at the Skyline Towers complex in Northern Virginia.

The grand jury made no report or otherwise commented on that previous presentation of evidence when it went out of existence yesterday.

Prosecutors said they had been requested by numerous citizens and groups to allow the presentation of non-Watergate matters to the final grand jury operating under the special prosecutor's auspices.

They would not detail the types of requests, nor would they say if anyone other than a group concerned about a local building collapse was allowed to present non-Watergate testimony.

Prosecutors noted that one allegation of that group, concerned about the collapse of an uncompleted Skyline Towers building near Baileys Crossroads, could generally fall under the prosecutor's area of interest—that of alleged illegal campaign contributions by the firm building the Skyline Towers complex.

The final 20 grand jurors dismissed yesterday by Judge Hart—three of the original 23 have dropped out for various reasons—were praised by the judge for duties "on behalf of all the people of this country."

The judge also lectured them sternly about the necessity for their continued silence about matters they heard in the grand jury room, warning them they could be punished for contempt of court if they violated the oath of secrecy.

The grand jurors, led by foreman Elmer B. Rogers, a Pentagon contract compliance officer, were then officially discharged after they said they had no indictments to present yesterday.

Judge Hart refused to release the names of the grand jurors, but did allow the court clerk to disclose their jobs—which ranged from art teacher

to retired clerk, maid to hairdresser, domestic courier to postal supervisor.

Mrs. Graham, Rodino Win Service Awards

Associated Press

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr., and Washington Post Publisher Katherine Graham were named winners yesterday of the 1975 American Institute for Public Service awards for their roles in investigating the Watergate affair.

Rep. Rodino, (D-N.J.), was chosen for public service performed by an elected or appointed official "for his fair and bipartisan leadership as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee."

Mrs. Graham's prize was for public service performed by a private citizen, "her relentless pursuit of truth and for her courage in using the media to uphold the principle of the people's right to know."

Rodino, headed the 1974 House impeachment inquiry, and Mrs. Graham's newspaper in 1974 won the Pulitzer prize for public service, a gold medal for its investigative reporting in 1973 of the scandal.