

7 Former Nixon Aides Indicted By Grand Jury

WASHINGTON (AP) — H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and John N. Mitchell, once the high command in President Nixon's administration, were charged Friday with conspiring and lying to block the Watergate investigations.

They were indicted with four others by a federal grand jury that also handed down a sealed and secret report — possibly containing findings about the President himself.

The indictment alleged the seven concealed and destroyed evidence and offered executive clemency, leniency and hush money to the Watergate burglars.

One charge is that Haldeman

lied in quoting the President that "it would be wrong" to raise \$1 million in blackmail money for the Watergate defendants.

In his news conference last Aug. 22, the President said Haldeman's recollection of the conversation about raising funds was accurate and recalled saying "it is wrong, it won't work."

The grand jury had available a tape recording of the conversation, which took place last March 21.

Following Friday's indictment, Nixon said it indicates the judicial process "is finally moving toward the resolution of the matter," and that

he hopes trials of those accused "will move quickly to a just conclusion."

The seven defendants are to be arraigned March 9 — a Saturday deliberately chosen to enable Mitchell, on trial in New York, to be present.

The grand jury named Mit-

chell, the former attorney general, in six counts. Haldeman, formerly White House chief of staff, and Ehrlichman, the top domestic adviser, were named in five.

Also indicted were:

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for 20 months answered a roll call, then was told by Judge Sirica it was not discharged.

"It is expected you might be asked to return to the courthouse in about two weeks," he said. Two of the 23 jurors were absent.

The judge asked special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski just before the proceedings whether the grand jury was to be dismissed and Jaworski said no. He gave no indication to the judge why he wanted the jurors to return or whether he expected more indictments from them.

Also turned over to the judge was a large, locked, suitcase containing the evidence. Another case was handed up by a member of the special prosecutor's staff.

The conspiracy count embracing all seven men said they attempted to "corruptly influence, obstruct, and impede...the due administration of justice" in the Watergate investigation.

The purpose, the indictment said, was "concealing and causing to be concealed the identities of the persons who were responsible for, participated and had knowledge" of the activities under investigation and "other illegal and improper activities." Was just a part of the conspiracy, the indictment said, that the seven caused false statements to be made to the FBI and that they interfered with the CIA "by deceit, craft trickery and dishonest means."

The indictments stem from

FBI agents and twice for lying to the grand jury.

There was one count of lying under oath against Strachan.

The break-in at Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate complex occurred June 17, 1972.

None of those indicted Friday were in Sirica's court.

In Los Angeles, Haldeman said, "I have no comment and will have none for the time being. When the time does come that I have something, I will let you know."

Colson, now in private law practice in Washington, said, "My conscience is clear; regardless of how rough the road ahead may be, I know that in the end my innocence will be established because I put complete faith in God and I believe deeply in my country."

Parkinson, also a Washington lawyer, said: "I am innocent of the charges ... my connection with the events was as a lawyer seeking honorably and diligently to serve my clients ... my innocence will be clearly demonstrated."

Inside the packed courtroom, the grand jury which has been studying the Watergate affair

—Charles W. Colson, formerly special counsel to the President.

—Robert C. Mardian, an official of the committee for the Re-election of the President, who once headed the Justice Department's Internal Security Division.

—Gordon Strachan, a staff assistant to Haldeman and later general counsel to the U. S. Information Agency.

—Kenneth W. Parkinson, an attorney for the re-election committee.

All seven were charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice and all, except Mardian, with obstruction of justice. Each count carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Additionally, Mitchell was indicted in separate counts with lying to FBI agents, twice for lying to the grand jury and once lying to the Senate Watergate committee. Each count carries a maximum five years in prison and fines ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Haldeman was charged in three counts of lying under oath to the Senate committee; and Ehrlichman once with lying to

the efforts made to conceal White House involvement in de-railing investigations about the break-in. The same grand jury indicted the seven men who took part in the burglary and bugging. Five pleaded guilty and two were convicted after trial.

The return of the indictments indicated the trial will be this summer, barring prolonged legal maneuverings by the defendants' lawyers. It is a practice of the federal courts in the District of Columbia to schedule trials within 60 days after indictments, but the timing invariably slips in major trials.

However, the indictment only obliquely addressed itself to a key conflict in the stories of Mitchell and Mitchell aide Jeb S. Magruder and Frederick C. LaRue, all of whom met at Key Biscayne, Fla., March 30, 1972.

Magruder said Mitchell at that meeting authorized the break-in and bugging of the opposition party headquarters; Mitchell denied it and LaRue said the subject was discussed but no action was taken in his presence.

Mitchell was not charged with authorizing the foray, but the grand jury said he lied when he said he knew nothing

about plans to enter the Watergate.

The lie, the indictment charged, was when Mitchell testified: "I would have shut it off as being entirely nonproductive at that particular time in the campaign."

Mitchell also was charged with making false statements when he said all he knew of the Watergate affair was what he read in newspapers and that no one at the re-election committee told him after the break-in that G. Gordon Liddy — the committee lawyer — was involved.

And, the grand jury charged, Mitchell lied when he said he had not heard of the log results of the wiretaps two days after the break-in and there was no discussion the documents should be destroyed.

Haldeman, the former chief of staff in the White House and a close Nixon associate since 1962, was charged with lying when he said:

—That no one except Dean knew that \$350,000 raised by Herbert W. Kalmbach and delivered by Strachan to LaRue was for hush money.

—That he was positive the President said on March 21 "there is no problem in raising a million dollars, we can do that, but it would be wrong," and that he had heard the conversation on the presidential tapes.

—That in a March 21 meeting with Dean there was no discussion of the prospect that Magruder would commit perjury.

Ehrlichman was accused of lying when he said he had received no information about the break-in — other than news accounts.

Strachan was accused of lying in saying that on his own initiative he took \$350,000 from Haldeman's safe and gave it to LaRue.