

Former Nixon In Cover-up of

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A federal grand jury yesterday indicted seven of President Nixon's former White House and campaign aides, including H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, and John Mitchell, for covering up the Watergate scandal.

The conspiracy is still going on, the grand jury charged. The grand jurors delivered the explosive indictment in U.S. District Court here along with a sealed "report and recommendation" evidently dealing with the President himself.

Seven men in all were accused of trying to block the Watergate investigation with lies to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to the grand jury and with the payment of hush money to the original Watergate defendants.

The others charged in the cover-up are former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson; former White House aide Gordon Strachan, former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian, and Kenneth W. Parkinson, an attorney for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

The grand jury indicted them for conspiring with others "known and unknown" from the day the break-in and

bugging at Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate office building was discovered "up to and including the date of the filing of this indictment."

The charges, climaxing a 20-month investigation, were handed up to U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. Sirica at a brief but tense 15-minute session at the federal courthouse here. Dozens of spectators lined the corridor outside Sirica's courtroom, but reporters took up most of the seats inside.

The White House responded with a brief statement in which the President expressed the wish that the country "will join him in recognizing that those indicted are presumed innocent unless proof of guilt is established in the courts."

More indictments are expected—probably next week—in connection with the activities of the so-called White House "plumbers," specifically their role in the 1971 break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

The indictment and the sealed report were given to Sirica by grand jury foreman Vladimir N. Pregelj. Watergate prosecutors handed the judge a second briefcase, which was locked, containing documents alluded to in the sealed report. They apparently deal with Mr. Nixon.

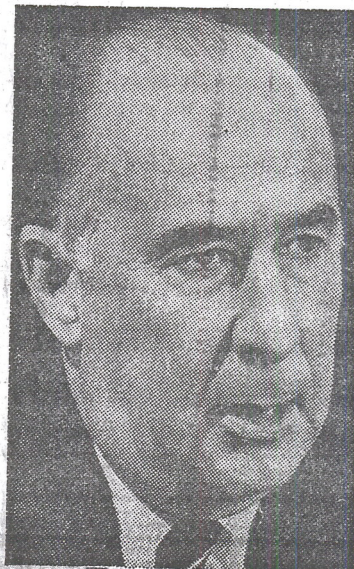
Sirica opened the envelope containing the short, sealed



H. R. HALDEMAN



JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN



JOHN N. MITCHELL

Aides Indicted Watergate Case

report; read it to himself, and announced that he would take custody of it "until further order of this court." He showed no sign of surprise at whatever it said.

The judge ended the session with a sweeping gag order prohibiting even the defendants from making any public statements about the case. He also made plain that he intends to try it himself and scheduled arraignments for next Saturday, March 9.

The grand jury returned 24 charges against the seven men. All are felonies carrying maximum prison terms of five years each but varying fines ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

The individual charges are:

- Mitchell—one count of conspiracy, one count of obstruction of justice, two counts of lying to a grand jury, one count of perjury before the Senate Watergate committee and one count of lying to the FBI.

- Haldeman—one count of conspiracy, one count of obstruction of justice and three counts of perjury before the Senate Watergate committee.

- Ehrlichman—one count of conspiracy, one count of obstruction of justice, one count of lying to the FBI and two counts of lying to a grand jury.

- Strachan—one count of conspiracy, one count of ob-

struction of justice and one count of lying to a grand jury.

- Colson—one count of conspiracy and one count of obstruction of justice.

- Parkinson—one count of conspiracy and one count of obstruction of justice.

- Mardian—one count of conspiracy.

Listing 45 overt acts in the course of the cover-up, the grand jury said that "it was a part of the conspiracy that the conspirators would corruptly influence, obstruct and impede, and corruptly endeavor to influence, obstruct and impede, the due administration of justice" in the Watergate bugging case, both to conceal those responsible for it and to prevent the disclosure of other illegal activities.

The indictment said the plot included the destruction of documents, attempts to get money from the Central Intelligence Agency for the original Watergate defendants and offers of "leniency, executive clemency and other benefits" for conspirators E. Howard Hunt Jr., G. Gordon Liddy and James W. McCord Jr. as well as for Jeb Stuart

See **INDICT, A11, Col. 1**

Profiles of Seven Defendants, Page A17



CHARLES W. COLSON



ROBERT C. MARDIAN



GORDON STRACHAN



KENNETH W. PARKINSON

INDICT, From A1

Magruder, the deputy director of the President's 1972 re-election campaign.

The grand jury also dealt a major blow to Mr. Nixon by indicting Haldeman for perjury when he quoted Mr. Nixon as saying "it would be wrong" to pay hush money. Haldeman told Senate Watergate committee that the President said this at a March 21, 1973, meeting at the White House, but the grand jurors, who have heard a tape of the conversation, said the claim was a lie.

In fact, the grand jury charged, Haldeman called former Attorney General Mitchell shortly after the meeting with the President. Mitchell, the indictment said, then called one of his top deputies at the Committee for the Re-election of the President, Frederick C. LaRue, and told LaRue to pay \$75,000 to Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr., the man whose "blackmail" demands had just been discussed at the White House.

LaRue arranged for delivery of the \$75,000 to Hunt's lawyer, William O. Bittman, that very same night — March 21, 1973, the grand jury said. The next day, the indictment says, Mitchell assured Ehrlichman at the White House that Hunt was no longer "a problem."

According to the grand jury, the cover-up began long before that, starting literally hours after the five Watergate burglars were ar-

rested inside Democratic Party headquarters at 2:30 a.m. on June 17, 1972.

Mitchell, who was then directing the President's re-election campaign, met later that day with Mardian, a former Justice Department colleague, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Mardian, the indictment charges, was told to tell Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy, who had not yet been apprehended, to seek help from Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst for those who had been arrested.

The grand jury said Liddy was supposed to get Kleindienst's help in getting "one or more" of the burglars out of jail, but the indictment does not say what Kleindienst's reaction was, or whether he was actually contacted.

The day after the burglary, on June 18, 1972, the grand jury said, Strachan, a 30-year-old White House aide who served as Haldeman's liaison with the Committee for the Re-election of the President, "destroyed documents on the instructions of Harry R. Haldeman." These apparently constituted the so-called "Gemstone file," containing aide who served as Haldeman's liaison with the Committee for the Re-election of the President, "destroyed documents on the instructions of Harry R. Haldeman." These apparently constituted the so-called "Gemstone file," containing aide who served as Haldeman's liaison with the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

The 50-page indictment apparently rests heavily on the testimony of former White House counsel John W. Dean III along with that of Magruder and LaRue, all of whom have been cooperating with Watergate prosecutors since last year when

they pleaded guilty to single counts of conspiracy.

The grand jury indictment gives this scenario:

Two days after the burglary, on June 19, Ehrlichman told Dean to inform Liddy that Hunt "should leave the United States." Ehrlichman also ordered Dean, at a meeting with Colson present, to take charge of the contents in Hunt's safe at the Executive Office Building next to the White House.

Meanwhile, Mardian and Mitchell met with Magruder the same day at Mitchell's apartment in the Watergate complex "at which time Mitchell suggested that Magruder destroy documents from Magruder's files."

On June 20, Liddy turned up at LaRue's Washington apartment for a meeting with LaRue and Mardian. "Liddy told LaRue and Mardian that certain commitments had been made for Liddy's benefit and that of others involved in the break-in.

Attempts to get financial help then began in earnest. On June 24, Mitchell, Mardian and Dean met at Nixon campaign headquarters here. "Mitchell and Mardian suggested to Dean that the CIA be requested to provide covert funds for the assistance of the persons involved in the Watergate break-in."

Two days later, at a White House meeting with Dean, the indictment continues, Ehrlichman okayed "a suggestion" that Dean ask CIA Deputy Director Vernon A. Walters for CIA covert

funds "to pay the bail and salaries" of persons involved in the break-in.

Walters has testified that he refused. According to the indictment, Ehrlichman then approved using President Nixon's personal lawyer, Herbert W. Kalmbach, to raise the money.

The first payments began shortly after that, with sometime White House spy Anthony Ulasewicz, whose code name was "Rivers," serving as the bagman. On July 6, 1972, the grand jury said, re-election committee lawyer Parkinson told Hunt's defense attorney, William Bittman, that "Rivers is okay to talk to."

"On or about July 7, 1972," the indictment says, "Anthony Ulasewicz delivered approximately \$25,000 in cash to William O. Bittman at 815 Connecticut Avenue, NW, in the District of Columbia."

The grand jury indicated that the payments for the Watergate defendants eventually totaled more than \$500,000 although the indictment was unclear about where some of the money went. Ulasewicz, for example, was said to have made deliveries of \$43,000 in cash and \$18,000 in cash at Washington National Airport in late July or early August of 1972, but the grand jury did not say who got those funds.

The demands, and the costs, kept piling up. Colson has said that he got a call from Hunt, an old friend, in mid-November of 1972 and that Hunt "said commitments had been made to

him." Colson taped the conversation and gave up the recording to Dean, the indictment says. According to the grand jury, Dean played it for Ehrlichman and Haldeman at the President's retreat at Camp David, Md., on Nov. 15 and took it to New York the same day for Mitchell to hear it.

Colson has insisted that Hunt was "not specific" about what he wanted in the phone call, but the grand jury charged that Colson's turning the recording over to Dean was in furtherance of the cover-up.

With the first Watergate trial fast approaching, the grand jury said that Parkinson turned up at the White House on Dec. 1 and gave Dean "a list of anticipated expenses of the defendants during the trial."

Haldeman, the indictment says, subsequently approved using part of a \$350,000 cash fund he controlled. The grand jury said Trachan gave \$350,000 to LaRue in two installments. The indictment indicates that LaRue eventually delivered the biggest portion — \$175,000 in four installments — to Hunt's lawyer, Bittman.

The first Watergate trial began before Judge Sirica on Jan. 8, 1973, and within a few days, Hunt and the four men from Miami whom he recruited for the burglary had pleaded guilty. Meanwhile, the grand jury said, LaRue arranged in mid-January for delivery of \$20,000 to Liddy. Mitchell allegedly told Dean that same month to have an intermediary,

John C. Caulfield "give an assurance of executive clemency" to McCord, former security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President who had been caught in Democratic headquarters with the Miamians.

The trial ended Jan. 30, but the payments to Hunt continued, the indictment says, and so did his demands.

According to the grand jury, Hunt met with Nixon campaign committee lawyer Paul O'Brien on March 16, 1973, and demanded another \$120,000.

The word was passed to the White House and it eventually came up at the March 21 meeting of Mr. Nixon, Haldeman and Dean.

In his account of the session, Haldeman told the Senate Watergate committee last summer: "He (Dean) also reported on a current Hunt blackmail threat. He said Hunt was demanding \$120,000 or else he would tell about the seamy things he had done for Ehrlichman." Hunt had been a member of the White House "plumbers" squad which Ehrlichman helped organize in 1971.)

By all accounts of the session, the President finally asked how much money would be involved over the years and Dean said, "probably a million dollars."

According to Haldeman's testimony, "the President said, 'There is no problem in raising a million dollars, we can do that, but it would be wrong.'"

Underlining those words in the indictment, the grand

jury said that Haldeman "well knew" they "were false."

Haldeman had also insisted in his Senate Watergate testimony that he had listened to the tape of the meeting and that he had heard the President say those words on the recording "with my own ears, yes."

Again underlining those words, the grand jury said Haldeman well knew that this, too, was false.

The stiffest charges in the indictment were lodged against Mitchell, who was named in six counts, and against Haldeman and Ehrlichman, who were named in five counts each. Currently on trial in New York on other charges, the 60-year-old former Attorney General was accused of lying to the FBI in July of 1972, of lying to the Watergate grand jury in September of 1972 and again in April of 1973, and of perjuring himself before the Senate Watergate committee in July of 1973.

Questioned first by FBI agents, on July 5, 1972, Mitchell was charged with making "false, fictitious and fraudulent statements" in telling them "that he had no knowledge of the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters"—except for what he had read in the newspapers.

Ehrlichman was charged with lying to the FBI and later to the grand jury where he repeatedly testified, "I'm sorry but I just don't remember . . . I'm sorry but I just don't know" when asked when he had learned of Liddy's involve-

ment in the Watergate break-in.

Predicting a "long and protracted" trial, Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski said it could last as long as three or four months.

Judge Sirica set arraignments for next Saturday because of Mitchell's trial schedule in New York. In a cryptic announcement that seemed to underscore the grand jury's charge of a continuing cover-up, Sirica also told the 21 members present that their long work was not yet done. He said they might be called back to the courthouse "in about two weeks."

The judge gave no indication of what he intends to do with the sealed report about Mr. Nixon, but there has been speculation that Sirica might send it to the House Judiciary Committee for its impeachment inquiry.

The report itself, which Sirica read before resealing it, seemed to consist of only a few pages. But the locked olive-colored briefcase that Assistant Watergate Prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste submitted as a supplement appeared to be crammed full. The judge has the key.