

2 Nixon Ex-Aides Get Double Arraignment

Former top presidential aides John Ehrlichman and Charles W. Colson are expected to plead not guilty to an array of Watergate-related charges against them this morning before U.S. District Chief Judge John J. Sirica.

They will be arraigned on recent indictments returned against them in connection with both the alleged Watergate cover-up and the break-in of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Also scheduled to be arraigned today in the original Watergate cover-up case are former White House and Nixon campaign aides H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, Robert C. Mardian, John N. Mitchell, Kenneth W. Parkinson, and Gordon Strachan.

While the cover-up will be handled by Judge Sirica in this and future stages, the Ellsberg break-in indictment,

has been assigned to U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell.

Gesell asked Sirica to accept the pleas of Colson and Ehrlichman in the break-in case as well mainly as a matter of convenience to the former presidential aides, according to court officials who noted that Ehrlichman is now a resident of Seattle.

The other four persons indicted in the "plumbers" case involving the Ellsberg break-in — G. Gordon Liddy, Bernard Barker, Eugenio Martinez and Felipe De Diego—will be arraigned before Gesell next Thursday at 9:30 a.m., a spokesman in Gesell's office said yesterday.

An arraignment is a court proceeding following a grand jury indictment at which persons are notified formally of the charges against them and are allowed to enter a plea.