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# Sirica Removes Secrecy

## On Unindicted Co-Conspirators

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon risks “appropriate procedures under the contempt statutes” by refusing to allow full access to White House documents wanted in the Plumbers trial, U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell declared Friday.

Gesell, in a stern lecture to the President’s chief lawyer, James D. St. Clair, said that Nixon’s shielding of the materials “borders on obstruction” of justice.

“I don’t think he understands the consequences of what he is doing,” said Gesell of the President.

In a nearby courtroom, meanwhile, Judge John J. Sirica lifted the secrecy on a grand jury report which is known to include the President’s name on a list of unindicted co-conspirators in the Watergate cover-up. The material is now in the hands of the Supreme Court, however, and when it might actually be released to the public was uncertain.

At the Capitol, a report by the Senate Watergate committee staff said the Nixon administration had used the federal bureaucracy for political gain and appeared to have violated several criminal laws in the process.

The report said the White House and Nixon’s campaign committee had taken advantage of government programs, particularly those aimed at minority groups, in a “concerted and concealed endeavor . . . to ensure that the administration remained in power.”

Later Friday, the U.S. Court of Appeals rejected a move by

several of the Watergate cover-up defendants to disqualify Sirica from presiding at their trial. The petitioners had argued that Sirica was biased toward the prosecution.

At the Gesell hearing, the judge said Nixon and St. Clair had broken an agreement under which defense lawyers would be able to accompany John D. Ehrlichman in a review of handwritten notes Ehrlichman left behind at the White House.

The White House police of narrowly limiting Ehrlichman’s access to materials he may need for a fair trial is “totally offensive,” Gesell said.

IN THE Plumbers case, Ehrlichman, G. Gordon Liddy and two others are accused in the 1971 break-in at the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist.

To White House claims that some material Ehrlichman seeks contains highly classified national security information, Gesell has offered to review the documents in a closed hearing.

In still another Watergate case, Chief U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. sentenced former Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst to a month in jail and a \$100 fine, both suspended, for failing to answer questions before a Senate committee.

On May 16, Kleindienst had pleaded guilty to the charges, which grew out of the ITT case.

It was not clear precisely how far Gesell might be prepared to go in pressing possible contempt proceedings against the President. He has also said he is willing, if necessary, to dismiss the charges against the

Plumbers defendants if enough evidence is not made available for their defense.

Appearing later on the White House lawn, St. Clair refused to name the other unindicted co-conspirators.

In other developments in Gesell’s court, Ehrlichman’s lawyers said subpoenas have been issued for the appearance of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, White House counsel

J. Fred Buzhardt and White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr.

They are summoned for the first day of the trial, scheduled for June 17.