

Nixon Statement Read at Aide's Trial

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President Nixon, testifying in the form of sworn written statements as the last defense witness for former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman in the Ellsberg break-in trial, said once again yesterday that he did not authorize the break-in.

The reading of the President's testimony came shortly after Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, fresh from global political discussions in Europe, gave the briefest testimony of the trial as an Ehrlichman defense witness.

It took only one minute and 48 seconds for the Secretary to answer a total of four questions—including one asking his name and position. He used a total of 19 words in his four responses.

Kissinger denied ever having ordered that a psychological profile be prepared of Pentagon Papers codefendant Daniel Ellsberg. Defense attorneys hope that his testimony will raise doubts about the credibility of a prosecution witness who allegedly told a CIA psychiatrist that Kissinger did order the profile.

Mr. Nixon's answers to six questions by defense attorneys and prosecutors

marked only the fourth or fifth time in the country's history that a President has testified in a criminal trial in any form, according to attorneys in the case.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell read the questions and answers to a 12-member jury here as the defense closed its case yesterday afternoon. Gesell made it clear in court beforehand that Mr. Nixon's answers were requested, not

ordered, and read a letter from Nixon in which the President said that the questions were being answered "as a matter of discretion . . . in the interest of justice."

Ehrlichman, former White House aide G. Gordon Liddy, Eugenio Martinez and Bernard L. Barker are charged with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding, by breaking into his Beverly Hills, Calif., office on Sept. 3, 1971, to obtain information for the profile. Ehrlichman is also charged with four counts of lying to federal investigators probing the break-in.

With the close of the defense case yesterday, Judge Gesell scheduled an ex-

Nixon Defended on Tapes

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said yesterday that President Nixon's actions refute his words in taped White House conversations in which he ordered aides to "stonewall" and otherwise continue the Watergate cover-up. His remarks came during a White House briefing.

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pected four to five hours of closing arguments for today. He said the case would go to the jury before noon on Friday.

Ehrlichman, Barker and Martinez all took the stand in their own defense and presented additional character witnesses. Liddy did not present any witnesses, nor did he take the stand.

Although the possibility of written questions to the President had been discussed throughout the trial, the final wording of the interrogatories was not reached until Tuesday night and the questions were kept secret until Judge Gesell read them to the jury.

In his answers, President Nixon said that he authorized the White House special investigations unit "to prevent and halt leaks of vital security information, and to prepare an accurate history of certain critical national security matters

which occurred under prior administrations."

He said he instructed Ehrlichman "to exercise general supervisory control over the unit," and recalled "repeatedly emphasizing to Mr. Ehrlichman that this was a highly classified matter which could be discussed with others only on an absolutely 'need-to-know' basis."

Ehrlichman has contended that his attempts to conceal the break-in, about which other coconspirators have testified, occurred because of the presidential orders and not because of any "consciousness of guilt," as prosecutors have charged. President Nixon does not specifically say that Ehrlichman was told to hide the break-in or when he gave instructions on the secrecy of the unit, but generally the functions of the unit as a whole were to remain secret.

The President said he felt that "the unit could not function effectively if its ex-

istence or the nature and details of its work were compromised by disclosure."

He also said, as he had previously, that he was first informed of the Fielding break-in on March 17, 1973.

Lastly, he was asked:

"Did you ever authorize anyone on the White House staff to search the files of Dr. Fielding for information about Dr. Ellsberg, without a warrant or the permission of Dr. Fielding, or to hire others to do so?"

The President replied in his written answer: "No."

The reading of the President's written answers carried with it none of the high drama that accompanied the appearance of Secretary Kissinger as a live witness yesterday morning.

People began lining up outside the courthouse at 4 a.m. yesterday to catch a glimpse of him as he arrived, and Washington Post staff writer Margot Hornblower reported that the crowd had swelled to 300 by

the time Kissinger alighted from his large black, limousine about 11 a.m.

Hundreds of cameras clicked at once and the crowd gaped, gasped and applauded.

Dwarfed by two tall policemen on either side, and surrounded by Secret Service men, Kissinger smiled and waved as he walked into the courthouse.

The trial had been delayed for 50 minutes as the judge waited for Kissinger to finish a congressional briefing on the summit tour from which he returned yesterday.

The first question from Ehrlichman defense attorney William S. Frates asked Kissinger's name and occupation.

"Henry Albert Kissinger, Secretary of State."

"Q. Tell his honor and the jury if before August 12, 1971, you authorized directly or indirectly David Young to request from the CIA a psychological profile of Daniel Ellsberg?"

"A. I did not."

Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Philip Bakes had two questions:

"Q. Apart from whether you authorized a direct psychological profile, did you have any knowledge that a psychological profile was being worked on by the CIA or David Young?"

"A. I had no such knowledge."

"Q. Did you have any knowledge whether there was a plan to obtain psychological information regarding Daniel Ellsberg or his psychological files from his psychiatrist?"

"A. I had no such knowledge."

Dr. Kissinger then left the stand. Former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson had testified during the trial that Kissinger had, along with the President, ordered him to disseminate derogatory information on Ellsberg, but no questions were asked of the secretary about that charge.