

News—

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EHRlichman BLAMED NIXON for the cover-up; campaign reform became law.

A lawyer for the former White House domestic-affairs adviser told Watergate jurors that "Richard Nixon deceived, misled, lied and used John Ehrlichman to cover up his own knowledge and his own actions." The attorney, William Frates, said the tapes will show that his client repeatedly urged full disclosure rather than a cover-up. According to Frates, Nixon once told Ehrlichman he had been "my conscience. . . . If I'd only followed your advice we wouldn't be in this situation."

The Ehrlichman lawyer never mentioned H. R. Haldeman but complained of "the inclination to put all the defendants in one pot." He said each defendant should "stand on his own feet."

While joining John Dean as an accuser of the former President, Ehrlichman also sought to discredit Dean, the first scheduled trial witness. Frates asserted that Dean, whom he described as "the President's lawyer under the President's direction," had done on his own acts he later claimed Ehrlichman had ordered.

Robert Mardian, a former assistant Attorney General and official of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, also opened his defense. His attorney asserted that Mardian was only "very minimally involved." Mardian is charged with conspiracy but isn't accused of actual obstruction of justice.

Judge John Strica set a hearing tomorrow afternoon on Nixon's motions to quash subpoenas from Ehrlichman and the prosecution.

A campaign-finance law given impetus by the Watergate scandals was signed by President Ford. It limits contributions by individuals and organizations and imposes spending ceilings for candidates, while providing public funds for major-party presidential candidates' campaigns. A six-member commission with subpoena power will enforce the law.

G. Gordon Liddy was released after 21 months in District of Columbia jail pending appeal of his convictions in the Watergate and Ellsberg burglary cases. Part of his jail time was a concurrent sentence for refusing to testify to grand juries. A federal judge reduced Liddy's appeal bond from \$100,000 to \$5,000, which his mother provided.

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