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Kalmbach tells of payoffs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Herbert W. Kalmbach, his voice and hands trembling and his eyes filling with tears, told the Watergate cover-up trial Tuesday how he doled out thousands of dollars in cash as paymaster for the original Watergate break-in defendants.

At one point, Kalmbach broke down in tears and U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica called a brief recess so the witness could regain his composure.

Kalmbach, the former corporate lawyer who once was Richard M. Nixon's personal attorney, told how he and a former New York City policeman, Anthony Ulasewicz, worked together to arrange secret deliveries of cash to the

break-in defendants.

Kalmbach testified as a prosecution witness at the trial of five former Nixon administration and campaign aides. He currently is serving a 6-to-18 month sentence for violating federal campaign contribution laws.

The five defendants in the cover-up trial are former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell, ex-White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert C. Mardian and Kenneth W. Parkinson, one-time lawyer for the Nixon re-election committee.

Kalmbach said that on June 28, 1972, eleven days after the burglary at

Democratic National Committee headquarters, John W. Dean III, then White House counsel, summoned him to Washington for "a very important assignment."

Dean and Kalmbach met the next day in a park a block from the White House and Kalmbach said the presidential counsel told him, "Herb, so far as these Watergate defendants, we've got to help these fellows. It's important we provide them with attorneys' fees and family support. It's the humanitarian thing to do."

Dean pledged Kalmbach to absolute secrecy and was quoted as telling him "this was a CRP (Nixon re-election committee) operation."

Over the next three months Kalmbach disbursed \$220,000.

Kalmbach said Dean had told him it was "a one-shot operation," but after it had continued for a month Kalmbach began to feel uneasy.

He met with Ehrlichman in the White House and said he told him:

"John, I'm looking you right in the eye. You know Barbara and my family, I know Jean and your family. You've got to tell me this is something proper I can go forward on."

"He said, 'It is proper. It's for these fellows, for their attorneys' fees and family support ... Herb, you are to go forward.'"