

Ehrlichman hid facts from FBI

File 12-12-74

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a heated cross-examination, John D. Ehrlichman admitted Wednesday that he didn't tell all he knew about Watergate to the FBI, the grand jury, and even his colleagues in the Nixon administration.

"You said you repeatedly tried to get the truth out on the Watergate matter," chief prosecutor James F. Neal said again and again at the Watergate cover-up trial as he faced former President Richard M. Nixon's No. 2 aide.

The questioning got so heated that Ehrlichman's lawyer, William S. Frates, accused Neal in front of the jury of grandstanding before audience and press because he wanted to run for political office in his native Tennessee.

Neal waited until the jury left for the noon recess then called Frates remarks "despicable."

He said, "I resent it and he should be admonished."

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said he agreed with Neal and said to Frates, "Unless you can show some facts to support the statement, I don't believe the statement was warranted."

Frates replied that Neal, too, had made despicable statements and complained about "the cheap shots he has taken throughout this trial."

Ehrlichman; H. R. Haldeman, former White House chief of staff; John N. Mitchell, former attorney general; Robert C. Mardian, former assistant attorney general, and Kenneth W.

Parkinson, who was an attorney for Nixon's re-election committee, are charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice in the investigation of the June 17, 1972, break-in at Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate.

Ehrlichman testified earlier that he had tried from the start to get White House and re-election committee officials to tell all they knew about Watergate.

Under cross-examination, he admitted that on June 21, 1972, he knew that Watergate mastermind G. Gordon Liddy had told White House counsel John W. Dean III the story of the break-in, that Liddy had tried to get the Watergate burglars out of jail by talking with the attorney general at his golf club and that there had been discussions about turning materials found in a White House safe over to the FBI.