

Watergate jury to get *F Post 12-30-74* instructions from Sirica

WASHINGTON (AP) — At about noon Monday, the jury in the Watergate cover-up trial is expected to begin considering the evidence amassed in one of the most highly publicized legal proceedings in American history.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica's final instructions are all that remain before final deliberations begin.

Sirica's guidance on how the jury should match their memories, impressions and the evidence with the law is expected to take about 2½ hours.

Then the nine women and three men on the panel will begin the conclusion of work started Oct. 11.

The jury will consider criminal counts against the five defendants, John N. Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, Robert C. Mardian and Kenneth W. Parkinson.

They are accused of plotting to conceal the identities of those officials really responsible for the June 17, 1972, break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters.

In one of the many ironies in the case, Parkinson has testified that before his connection to the cover-up case, his only political act was to make a \$30 contribution to a neighbor running for a low-level office in the District of Columbia.

Unlike the other defendants, Parkinson is a private lawyer who was hired to help defend the 1972 Nixon reelection committee against a \$1 million

civil damage suit filed by the Democrats after the break-in.

Mitchell, a former attorney general, headed the Nixon reelection campaign; Mardian is a former assistant attorney general; Haldeman and Ehrlichman were former President Richard M. Nixon's top aides.

Sirica has said that if no verdict has been returned by New Year's Day, they will continue deliberating through the holiday. The complexity of the case alone makes any decision before New Year's Eve unlikely.

A potential source of extended deliberations is the 31 White House tapes played into evidence during the trial. The jurors may have the reels rewound and played again if they wish.

To do that, they must return to the courtroom and don the bulky green earphones which have helped make the trial like no other in American legal history.

In his final instructions, Sirica is expected to admonish the jury to ignore the pardon granted Nixon, who was named an unindicted co-conspirator in the case.

The Nixon pardon came up repeatedly during jury selection, and Watergate prosecutors acknowledged their fear that some jurors might vote for acquittal out of an opinion that the pardon was unfair to the cover-up defendants.

If the verdict is guilty, appeals are expected from all of the defendants.