

Brief Background Sketches of the Five Defendants in Trial

John Newton Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell was Attorney General from Jan. 20, 1969, to March 1, 1972, when he resigned to head President Nixon's re-election committee. Three months later—and after the Watergate break-in he left the post, saying he was doing so at the insistence of his wife, Martha.

Mr. Nixon and Mr. Mitchell became close friends in the mid-nineteen-sixties when they were with Wall Street law firms that merged. Mr. Mitchell managed Mr. Nixon's 1968 Presidential campaign, and early in his first term, Mr. Nixon described the Attorney General as "my closest adviser, as you know, on all legal matters and on many other matters as well."

Born Sept. 5, 1913, in Detroit, Mr. Mitchell was graduated from Fordham University Law School and became one of the nation's leading bond lawyers. He and his wife separated in September, 1973. They have one daughter, and he has a son and a daughter by a previous marriage.

Mr. Mitchell was charged with conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury. The prosecutors charged that he had approved the political intelligence plan that led to the break-in and then played a central role in the cover-up. Mr. Mitchell denied he had approved the intelligence plan and contended he had been made a scapegoat by a group of White House aides.

Harry Robbins Haldeman

Next to the President, Mr. Haldeman was the most powerful man in the Nixon White House. A call from the chief of staff was feared by lower officials, who knew him as a brusque taskmaster who made efficiency his watchword.

With few exceptions, even Cabinet officers had to go through Mr. Haldeman if they wanted to see the President—and often they did not succeed.

Mr. Haldeman is a former advertising executive. His association with Mr. Nixon began in 1956 when he was an advance man in the second Vice Presidential campaign. He worked again for Mr. Nixon in 1958, when the Vice President was traveling in behalf of GOP candidates, and in Mr. Nixon's campaigns in 1960, 1962 and 1968.

Conservative in style as well as in politics, Mr. Haldeman, who is 48 years old, finally let his crew-cut hair grow a bit before the trial started. He and John D. Ehrlichman resigned from the White House under Watergate pressures on April 30, 1973. Mr. Haldeman and his wife, Jo, and their four children then returned to his native California.

Mr. Haldeman was charged with conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury. His lawyer branded the chief government witnesses "professional liars."

John Daniel Ehrlichman

President Nixon's top domestic adviser was a classmate of Mr. Haldeman at the University of Southern California, and many viewed them as carbon copies both in personality and in outlook.

Like Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Ehrlichman first became associated with Mr. Nixon when he did advance work in the early campaigns. He moved up to the post of tour director for the 1968 campaign and then was named counsel to the President after Mr. Nixon's inauguration. Two years later, Mr. Nixon made him assistant for domestic affairs, a position that gave him close access to the President.

Upon leaving the White House, Mr. Ehrlichman, 49, returned to Seattle to resume his once-prosperous practice in land-use law. He was convicted of conspiracy last year in the case involving the break-in at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. He and his wife, Jeanne, have five children.

Mr. Ehrlichman was charged in the Watergate cover-up trial with conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury. The prosecutors alleged he had been involved in approving huge money payments, ordering destruction of evidence and offering clemency to the break-in defendants in exchange for their silence.

Robert Charles Mardian

Mr. Mardian headed the internal security division of the Justice Department from November, 1970, to May 1, 1972, when he resigned to join Mr. Mitchell on the President's re-election committee.

A scholarly-looking man and a political conservative, Mr. Mardian was an architect of the so-called "Southern strategy" for Mr. Nixon's election and the anti-school-busing stand of the Nixon Administration.

He professed great shock at learning of the involvement of campaign aides in the Watergate break-in and left Washington to join his brothers in a Phoenix, Ariz., building company. He and his wife Dorothy, have three sons.

Mr. Mardian was charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice. The prosecutors said he had taken part in efforts to get the burglars out of jail the day they were arrested and that he later was involved in discussions of hush money and in preparation of a false story to be told to Watergate investigators.

Mr. Mardian contended that his involvement in the Watergate case had been limited to about 35 days' service as a lawyer representing the Nixon re-election committee in civil suits stemming from the break-in.

Kenneth W. Parkinson

A native of Washington, the 47-year-old Mr. Parkinson was active for years in District of Columbia affairs. Once a law clerk in the same United States District Court-house where he has been on trial, he was drawn into Watergate matters when Mr. Nixon's campaign committee hired him to represent it in a civil suit filed by the Democrats over the original break-in.

His law practice included organization of corporations, real estate, zoning and lobbying. He also was an officer-holder on the Board of Trade, the Legal Aid Society and the District of Columbia Bar Association. He and his wife have three sons.

Mr. Parkinson was charged with conspiracy and obstruction of justice. The prosecutors charged that he had withheld information from authorities and had been involved in passing a list of money demands from the burglars to the White House counsel, John W. Dean. Mr. Parkinson contended that his only involvement was as a lawyer and that he had been lied to by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Mardian.

1-2-75
245