

Watergate Jury: Persistent, Congenial

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2—John A. Hoffar was foreman of the jury that decided yesterday the fate of the five men in the Watergate cover-up case.

Today, he shyly answered questions, sitting among the many figurines in the spotless parlor of his home on Military Road while parakeets chattered in the dining room.

The jury was congenial, he said. There were no dominating personalities. There were no significant disagreements. They considered the defendants one at a time. They tried to stick to the facts.

"I've probably said too much," he said, explaining that Judge John J. Sirica had cautioned the jurors not to discuss their deliberations.

"We tried not to let our personal feelings get in the way and to decide it on the facts," Mr. Hoffar said.

Meanwhile, in San Clemente, Calif., an associate described

former President Richard M. Nixon as "deeply anguished" by the convictions. [Page 10.]

Like the 11 other members of the jury, Mr. Hoffar is trying to re-establish his life as a private citizen after almost three months of being sequestered.

The jurors had been called on to judge the guilt or innocence of men who held power during the days when Mr. Nixon was President. They convicted four men and freed one man.

Now, everyone — friends, relatives, neighbors, newsmen — wanted to talk to them.

Ruth C. Gould took her ringing telephone off the hook last night. Today, she left on the 1 P.M. shuttle flight to New York to visit a daughter.

Mrs. Gould usually makes the trip on Christmas, but this year she was locked up with the other jurors over the holiday.

Roy V. Carter Sr. and that

his son, Roy Jr., the youngest member of the jury at 27 years, got back to their Anacostia-section row house at about 8 o'clock last night and went out today, visiting friends.

"He wouldn't say anything about the trial," Mr. Carter said.

It is a long way across Washington from the black working-class neighborhood of Mr. Carter to the Watergate apartments. But one of the jurors lives in the Watergate—Marjorie M. Milbourn.

Desk clerks and telephone operators filtered out the calls to her apartment.

Dock Reid, the 50-year-old juror who is a doorman at the Burlington Hotel, was out on errands, his wife said.

"Everything piled up while he was gone," Mrs. Reid said through their open storm door. "His driver's license expired."

Then she added about the trial, "I'm very proud of him." When reached by United

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Press International, Mr. Reid added little to what Mr. Hoffar had said.

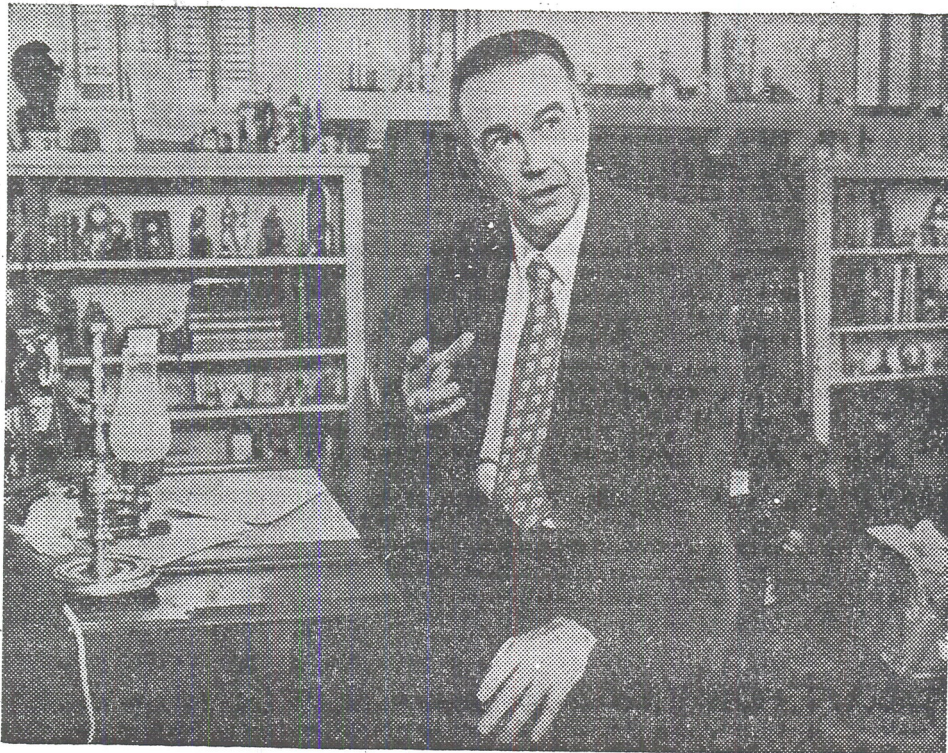
"By the time we reviewed the evidence and talked about it and what was said on the stand, I don't know if you could say that we had any disagreement," he said.

John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General; H. R. Halde- man, the former White House chief of staff; John D. Ehrlich- man, the former White House

domestic adviser, and Robert C. Mardian, the former Assistant Attorney General, were convicted by the jury. Kenneth Wells Parkinson, a lawyer for Mr. Nixon's re-election committee, was found not guilty.

Mr. Hoffar said that the jurors had considered the defendants one at a time, Mr. Mitchell first and Mr. Parkinson last.

When they got to the charges against Mr. Parkinson, they decided that "the Government's case was not proved," Mr. Hoffar said.



John A. Hoffar, foreman of Watergate cover-up jury, at home in Washington yesterday

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