

Text of Sirica's Statement

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (UPI)—Following is the text of the statement of Federal Judge John J. Sirica in sentencing the Watergate defendants today:

This Court has, for many days now, given careful and serious thought to what the proper sentence to impose in this case should be.

It has carefully read and considered all of the presentence reports and has conferred with the probation officers. In addition, the Court has read the vast number of letters written, on behalf of the defendants, by the people who know them and who wish to state their opinions as to the good character, reputation and background of each of these men.

"In an attempt to arrive at a just and fair sentence, a court of criminal justice usually takes into consideration the purpose or purposes to

be served by imposing a particular sentence on a particular individual.

"There may be said to be, among others, four primary reasons that are normally considered in this respect. These are:

"First, incarceration for the protection of society; second, the matter of punishment; third, the possibility of rehabilitation and the effect of the sentence on the defendants and their families, and fourth, the deterrent effect that the sentence might have on others who may be tempted to commit the same types of crimes for which these defendants now stand convicted.

"Therefore, having in mind these reasons for imposing sentences in the administration of criminal justice, and having carefully reviewed all of the other facts before it in this proceeding, the court will now proceed with the sentencing.