

Ellsberg Judge May Halt Trial

LOS ANGELES — (CDN) — U.S. District Court Judge Matt Byrne ordered the Pentagon Papers trial to resume as usual today, but made it clear he may stop everything for a side-issue trial of a new alleged "Watergate conspiracy."

It all depends, he said, on whether the government comes up soon enough with answers about how, why and when some of the same people in Watergate were involved in purported moves to sabotage the case of defendant Daniel Ellsberg.

He told government prosecutor David R. Nissen he wanted to see the product of any federal investigations of Ellsberg and co-defendant Anthony J. Russo by "anyone, anywhere — I want all information you have, forthwith."

The judge reserved decision, meantime, on an insistent request by the defense to halt the trial and call in a

batch of ex-White House employees, including those just ousted yesterday, to testify as to what they know about the case.

"It's the only way we're going to get at the truth," declared Leonard Weinglass, attorney for Russo. "This has been nothing but a political trial from beginning to end."

Weinglass and Leonard Boudin, Ellsberg's lawyer, first asked that only G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr., two White House aides accused of ransacking the office of Ellsberg's Beverly Hills psychiatrist, Lewis Fielding, be ordered in.

They expanded their demands to include former FBI chief L. Patrick Gray, and the newly resigned Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and presidential aides H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and John W. Dean III, plus former Attorney General John Mitchell.