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Haldeman Wants Access To Original Nixon Tapes

WASHINGTON, May 1 (UPI)—H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, asked the United States District Court today to permit him to "inspect and test" the original tapes of all his conversations with President Nixon to help him prepare a defense in the Watergate cover-up case.

Mr. Haldeman also asked the court to allow him to inspect the machines used to record the conversations and later to transcribe Mr. Nixon's secret tapes "to determine whether those machines were operating properly."

His request was included in a flurry of defense motions filed by the seven men indicted last March 1 in connection with the Watergate cover-up plot.

The seven all former high White House or Nixon campaign aides—asked that the criminal charges against them be dismissed on ground of extensive pretrial publicity about the bugging scandal. Several of the defendants also asked to be tried separately and to have their trials moved out of Washington, where the controversial case was born.

The special Watergate prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, must respond to the defense motions by June 5. The case is scheduled to go to trial Sept. 9.

Similar motions also were filed by the six defendants accused of conspiracy in the 1971 break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist. That case is scheduled for trial June 17.

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, a defendant in the cover-up case, urged that his trial be moved from Washington because there is "so great a prejudice" against him that he cannot obtain a fair and impartial trial in the nation's capital.

He attached a Sindlinger survey taken April 12-21 that showed that 84 per cent of those polled in Washington said they believed the seven defendants were guilty.

The poll showed only 2 per cent of those surveyed in the District of Columbia thought that the defendants were innocent and that 13 per cent believed them not guilty until so proven. Nationwide, the poll said, 75 per cent believed the defendants were guilty, 7 per cent believed them innocent and 15 per cent believed them innocent until proven guilty.