

Ehrlichman Loses Coast Bid to Shift Trial for Perjury

LOS ANGELES, May 2 (AP) —A Superior Court judge refused today to move John D. Ehrlichman's perjury trial from Los Angeles. Mr. Ehrlichman is charged in connection with the 1971 break-in at Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office.

Counsel for Mr. Ehrlichman, the former chief domestic affairs adviser to President Nixon, contended that the defendant could not receive a fair trial because of massive news coverage relating to his indictment in Los Angeles.

Judge Gordon Ringer also turned down a motion to dismiss the charge against Mr. Ehrlichman on the ground he would be unable to get a fair trial anywhere in the United States because of publicity. Referring to publicity about Watergate, Mr. Ehrlichman's attorney, Joseph Ball, argued, "Maybe the agencies of the Government—for instance the Senate of the United States—have made it impossible for him to be given a fair trial."

But Stephen Trott, prosecutor, countered that such reasoning would prohibit prosecution of any person who was charged with "crimes important to this country. If that was so," he said, "all you would have to do is shoot the President on television, generate a lot of publicity and receive some kind of suicidal immunity. That would say you can't try people for crimes important to the country."

Mr. Ehrlichman is charged with lying to a Los Angeles County grand jury about his knowledge of the break-in at the office of the psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding.

Defense lawyers contended news coverage relating to the 1971 break-in had been so massive that no jurors would be found who were not prejudiced