

# Sirica Dismisses Coverup Motions

## Washington

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica dismissed yesterday all defense motions to dismiss, delay or move the Watergate coverup trial scheduled to begin September 9.

The action came after two of the defendants — former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and Kenneth W. Parkinson, former counsel to President Nixon's reelection committee — asked the Supreme Court to disqualify Sirica as presiding judge in the trial.

Mitchell and Parkinson contend that Sirica has shown bias toward the prosecution in the case.

The Supreme Court took the question under advisement.

Although he rejected other motions, Sirica scheduled a brief private hearing for July 29 and 30 on plea by Gordon C. Strachan, who was an aide to former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman, to dismiss his indictment.

Sirica heard oral arguments June 11-13 on motions filed by Mitchell, former White House aides Haldeman, Strachan and John D. Ehrlichman and Nixon reelection aides Parkinson and Robert C. Mardian. All are charged with conspiring to cover up the Watergate scandal.

In a 21-page order, Sirica rejected the argument that the case should be dismissed because the Senate Watergate committee generated highly inflammatory publicity. He pointed out that none of the defendants was under indictment at the time he testified at last summer's hearings.

He also said that changing the location of the trial or granting each defendant a separate trial "would be ineffective remedies in this case."

Sirica also said motions for postponement should not be granted until after the jury examination.

*United Press*