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Haldeman

asks new

jury picks

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WASHINGTON — Lawyers for H. R. Haldeman have asked that 400 potential jurors for the Watergate cover-up case be dropped and the process of jury selection start over again.

In a legal brief, the lawyers for the former White House chief of staff said a questionnaire sent to the potential jurors alerted them to the case they will be judging.

Specifically, they said, a letter sent to the potential jurors in July indicated the trial would begin in September, last three or four months and that the jury would be sequestered because the case is expected to create a large amount of publicity.

As a result, they said, the jurors have been anticipating the trial and their interest is intense in such events as the pardon granted to former President Nixon.

That pardon, the lawyers said, is sure to influence the 12 persons eventually selected and will impair Haldeman's right to have his case heard by an impartial jury.

Haldeman's lawyers also said that by not allowing them to take part in the selection process, the judge ended up with a jury panel of more than half unemployed persons, most of them poor.