

## Coverup Trial

# Sirica Wants Helms to Testify

Washington

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said yesterday he wants former CIA Director Richard Helms brought to Washington from Iran to testify at the Watergate cover-up trial.

Helms has been ambassador to Iran for the past year.

Defense lawyers wanted to question Deputy CIA Director Vernon Walters about a memorandum Helms wrote concerning Watergate on June 28, 11 days after the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Prosecutor James F. Neal objected, saying that Walters would testify that he "never saw, heard of or knew of the existence of this memo until June, 1973."

Sirica then said, "Why don't you get on the telephone and bring back Ambassador Helms . . . I think if I order him brought back he will come."

"Let's do it the right way instead of trying to cross-examine a memorandum."

The memo was classified secret and addressed to the deputy director.

A published report a year ago quoted the memo as instructing the deputy director, who then was Walters, that "we (the CIA) still adhere to the request that they (the FBI) restrict themselves to the personalities already arrested or directly under suspicion and that they desist from expanding this investigation into other areas which may well, eventually, run afoul of our operations."

Defense lawyers wanted to ask about the memo in connection with Walters' earlier testimony concerning an alleged attempt by White House aides to use the CIA to try to limit the FBI investigation of the break-in.

Earlier, Fred C. LaRue, who acted as banker for money passed to the Watergate burglars, testified that he understood the payments were to keep the break-in defendants from implicating then-President Nixon's re-election officials.

On trial on charges they conspired to block investigation of the break-in are former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, ex-White House aides H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former Assistant Attorney Gen. Robert C. Mardian and Kenneth W. Parkinson, one-time attorney for Richard M. Nixon's re-election committee.

LaRue, a Mississippi oilman who was a close friend and aide to Mitchell, said the former attorney general seemed surprised when told about the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters, hours after it occurred on June 17, 1972.

In contrast, he said, Jeb Magruder's first reaction was, "last night was the night they were supposed to go into the DNC."

LaRue said that he, Mitchell, Magruder and other Nixon campaign officials were in Beverly Hills when they got word of the break-in.

William G. Hundley, Mitchell's lawyer, asked if Mitchell seemed surprised.

"To the extent that Mr. Mitchell ever seems surprised," LaRue replied.

LaRue testified in detail about the payments he made and the problems he had raising enough money to meet the demands of the break-in defendants and their lawyers.

He told how he got approval to tap a \$350,000 cash fund kept in the White House after other sources were drying up.

He received the money in two deliveries from Gordon C. Strachan, a White House aide on Haldeman's staff.

The first delivery was \$70,000.

In mid-January of 1973, LaRue said, approval was given to turn over the balance, \$280,000, and it was brought to his apartment in the Watergate complex by Strachan.

"He had an envelope," LaRue said. "He said, 'I don't guess you want to give me a receipt for this money.' I said, 'No, I don't.'"

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