

Watergate Trial Summation Begins

Washington

Chief trial prosecutor James F. Neal charged yesterday that Richard M. Nixon helped stop the Watergate investigation for two crucial weeks during the summer of 1972 in "one of the saddest chapters" of the nation's history.

Delivering his summation at the Watergate cover-up trial, Neal shouted, gestured and pounded the lectern as he recounted the allegations against five of Mr. Nixon's former aides. But his voice dropped almost to a whisper as he spoke of the former President.

Neal said the conversation between Mr. Nixon and his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, on June 23, 1972—six days after the break-in at the Democratic National Committee—was "one of the saddest chapters in the long and glorious history of the United States."

"In the sanctity of the White House," Neal said, Mr. Nixon and Haldeman, now a defendant, discussed how the FBI was "not under control" because it had uncovered evidence about \$114,000 used to finance the bugging.

Reading from the transcript of a White House tape, Neal said the conversation included the suggestion that the Central Intelligence Agency be used to tell the FBI to "stay the hell out of this."

"Can you imagine!" Neal shouted.

Neal said that later on June 23, Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, then Mr. Nixon's No. 2 White House aide and now another defendant, sought to get the CIA to stop the FBI's inves-

Two Envoys Confirmed

Washington.

The Senate yesterday confirmed Thomas Scotese as ambassador to Yemen and Michael Samuels as ambassador to Sierra Leone.

Scotese is now deputy chief at the U.S. embassy in Damascus and Samuels is working at the State Department here.

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tigation of four Mexican checks totaling \$89,000.

Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters, deputy CIA director, relayed his conversation with Haldeman and Ehrlichman to acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray.

"As a result of Mr. Haldeman's, Mr. Ehrlichman's and Mr. Nixon's direction, the FBI investigation was thwarted for two weeks," Neal said. "It was thwarted, stopped, killed in its tracks for two weeks. And that's the obstruction of justice."

The prosecutor's summation is to continue today.

Neal said the facts in the case are complex, but concealment of high-level involvement in Watergate was "plain old ordinary garden-variety right or wrong."

Neal accused another defendant, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, of having discussed \$1 million plans for call girls, kidnaping and wiretapping with re-election finance counsel G. Gordon Liddy, later convicted as a Watergate mastermind.

"It has been said that the

pursuit of justice is mankind's most noblest effort on earth," Neal said. "Something to this effect is inscribed at the Department of Justice, down at tenth and Pennsylvania.

"Sadly enough, this is where not once but twice Mitchell had his conferences with Liddy."

"Justice and its pursuit is an elusive goal," Neal said. "Any obstruction of justice is always serious and it is even more serious when it is carried on or participated in by the very people who are sworn into high offices to enforce the law.

"Just such things on a massive scale by the highest officials of this land is what this case is all about."

Neal worked his way chronologically through the planning that led up to the break-in at the Democratic offices in the Watergate complex June 17, 1972; the attempts to conceal involvement by using the CIA to obstruct an FBI investigation of the Watergate financing; of "veiled, camouflaged" offers of clemency, and of nearly \$500,000 paid to the seven Watergate burglars.

Judge John J. Sirica said he hoped to complete final arguments Monday, recess the trial over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and charge the jury of nine women and three men next Thursday.

All five defendants—Mitchell, Haldeman, Ehrlichman; Robert Mardian, a Nixon re-election campaign aide, Kenneth W. Parkinson, a re-election committee lawyer—are charged with conspiracy.

United Press