

Ehrlichman Defended as 'Square'

Washington

John D. Ehrlichman's lawyer portrayed his client yesterday as a decent White House "square" whose frank advice to former President Nixon was rewarded by his being thrown to the wolves.

Attorney William S. Frates' final summation was among three heard yesterday by the jury in the Watergate coverup trial.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said he would give his instructions to the jury on Monday, when they will begin considering the guilt or innocence of the five defendants.

After pressing defense lawyers to speed their final arguments, the judge gave up on his original intention of having the jury deliberate over the weekend.

Ehrlichman and four other former White House aides or Nixon re-election officials are charged with conspiring to obstruct the investigation of the June 17, 1972, break-in at the Watergate building headquarters of the Democratic National Committee.

The jurors have heard more than 18 hours of arguments in the final summaries. The prosecution is scheduled for final rebuttal today.

Frates recounted how Ehrlichman, a former White House aide, was summoned to the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md., April 29, 1973.

"It is time to bind up the nation's wounds. It is time to get on with our jobs," he said.

Frates said that while officially Ehrlichman resigned, in reality, "He was thrown out. He was thrown to the wolves."

Frates recalled Ehrlichman's testimony that Mr. Nixon planned to pardon the Watergate break-in defendants in his second term as president.

"After all," he said, "certain people do get pardoned in this country."

Noting that Abraham Lincoln called for a binding up of the nation's wounds after the Civil War, Frates said

Hanoi Takes Over Another Viet Town

Saigon

Communist troops supported by tanks captured another district town north of Saigon yesterday to gain control of all of Phuoc Long province except its beleaguered capital, military sources said.

An estimated 1200 soldiers on both sides were killed or wounded in Christmas fighting.

The capture of Dong Xoai, 50 miles north of Saigon, came after an artillery and rocket barrage of 1000 rounds and human wave assaults from two directions backed by tanks. Only the province capital of Phuoc Binh remains in government hands.

Ehrlichman "is innocent of these charges. I ask you to bind up his wounds."

Frates said that throughout the spring of 1973 Ehr-

A 37-round rocket barrage on Bien Hoa airbase, 14 miles northeast of Saigon, knocked out five F-5 jets scheduled to bomb around Dong Xoai in an effort to stem the Communist assault.

Dong Xoai was the second district capital seized by the Communists in the past 24 hours. On Christmas afternoon, North Vietnamese troops overran Tanh Linh, about 70 miles northeast of Saigon, after two days of street battles.

Since the latest upsurge of fighting began December 6, Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers have seized six district capitals.

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lichman repeatedly urged full Watergate disclosure.

Mr. Nixon's reaction, Frates said, was to keep secret his own Watergate

knowledge and reject Ehrlichman's recommendations.

"You don't tell John about it," Frates imagined Mr. Nixon as saying.

"John's a square. He wants us to reveal it. But, by God, if we reveal it, we're caught."

Frates was followed by Thomas C. Green, lawyer for defendant Robert C. Mardian, a former assistant attorney general.

Noting that his client had nothing to do with the other alleged conspirators after mid-July 1972, Green insisted Mardian is unfairly accused.

Green recalled that prosecutor James F. Neal had referred to Mardian as a cymbal among the players in the Watergate cover-up orchestra.

Green said Mardian didn't even sit in the orchestra, "He sat down in the seats."

Jacob Stein, attorney for defendant Kenneth W. Parkinson, who was an attorney for the Nixon re-election committee, said the prosecution never found a motive for his client's part in the conspiracy.

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