

# Watergate Jury Gets Coverup Case

## Washington

A jury of nine women and three men yesterday began to deliberate the case against the five former White House and Nixon campaign aides charged in the Watergate coverup.

The jurors deliberated for nearly four hours in the afternoon before recessing for the day amid signs that the deliberations would be lengthy.

The jurors began their discussions at 1:55 p.m. after receiving instructions from U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

About 5:30 p.m. they sent a note to Sirica asking for three sets of testimony: that of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, one of the defendants; also Mitchell's testimony before the grand jury in April, 1973, and the testimony at the trial of the government's three main witnesses, John W. Dean III, Fred C. LaRue and Jeb Magruder.

Judge Sirica held a hurried conference in his chambers with the lawyers in the case. Then he summoned everyone in the case to the courtroom. He called in the

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jurors, and read aloud their note — sent by the foreman, James A. Hoffar, a 57-year-old retired park policeman, who was elected by the jurors at the start of their deliberations.

Apologetically, Sirica told them he could not grant the request. He said the transcript of the trial contained much that they were not to see — legal arguments and bench conferences, for instance. Thus, he said, a court reporter would have to read aloud the testimony.

"It would take three weeks," he said. "It would

be impossible. We'd be trying this case all over again."

The other defendants in the case are John D. Ehrlichman, once chief domestic affairs adviser to Mr. Nixon; H. R. Haldeman, Mr. Nixon's chief of staff at the White House; former assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian, who was a Nixon campaign committee official, and Kenneth Wells Parkinson, a Washington attorney who was hired by the committee immediately after the Watergate break-in to handle the committee's resulting legal problems.

All are charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice and all but Mardian are charged with obstruction of justice as well. Mitchell and Haldeman each face three additional counts of perjury. Ehrlichman, two perjury counts.

They face possible prison terms, if convicted, ranging from 25 years for Mitchell and Haldeman, 20 years for Ehrlichman, ten years for Parkinson, and five years for Mardian.

During his one hour and 52 minutes of final instructions, Sirica warned the jurors against considering anything

but evidence heard in the courtroom in reaching their verdict.

"Neither the pardon of former President Nixon nor any other cases or extraneous matters should have any effect on your deliberations or your verdict," the judge said.

As the 70-year-old Sirica neared the end of his instructions, his voice rose and he said heatedly:

"This is the case of the United States of America against the defendants . . . this case was not brought for the purpose of revenge or for any other such pur-

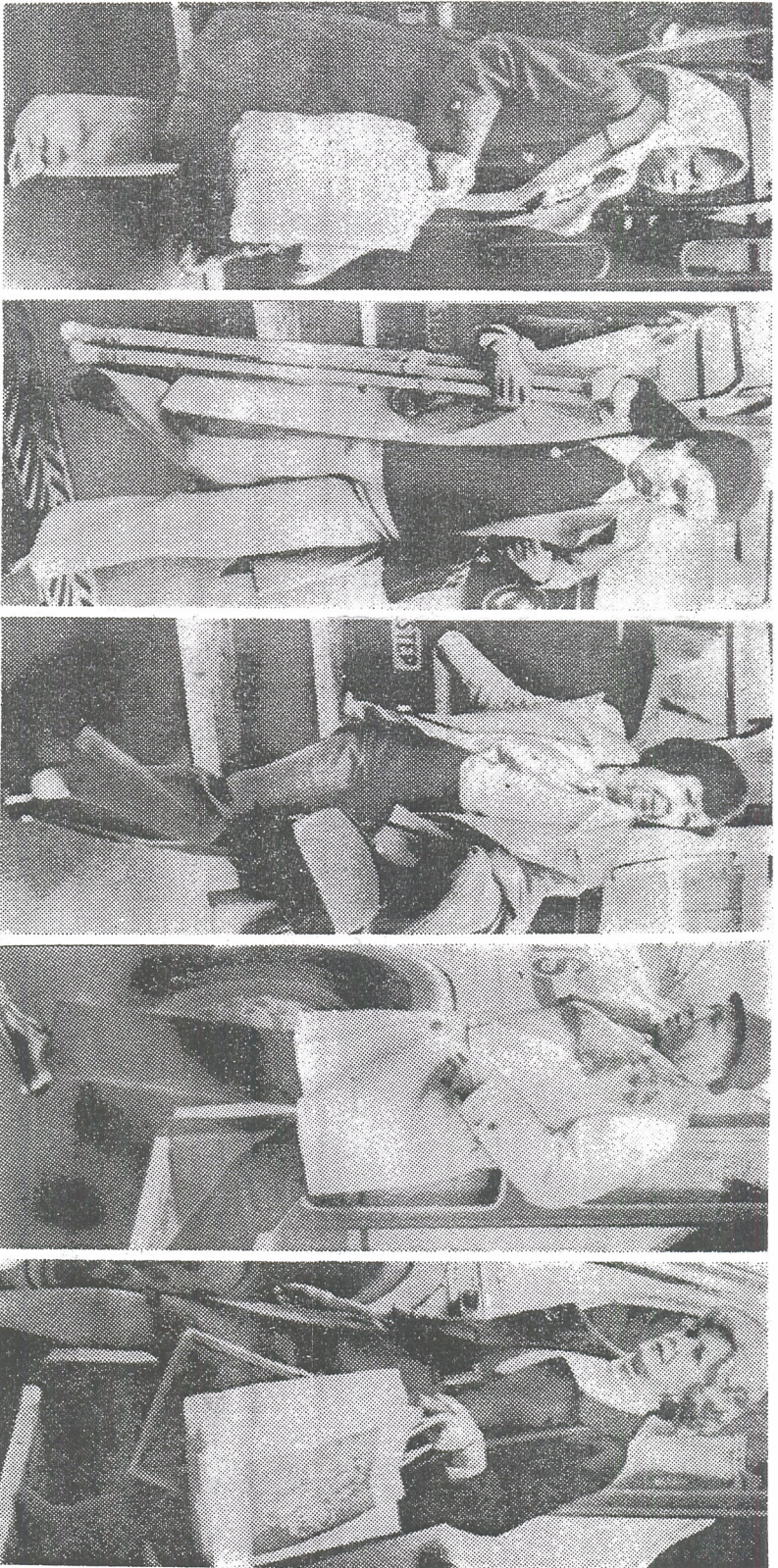
pose."

"In the final analysis, the purpose of this trial, and the reason for all of us being here, can be summed up in a few words . . . your duty is to ascertain what the truth is," he said.

The trial began with the jury selection process last October 1. The jury heard testimony from more than 80 witnesses and listened to 30 tapes, including 28 of presidential conversations during the Nixon administration. The jurors were sequestered throughout the trial.

*New York Times*





Five members of the Watergate jury arrived at the courthouse to hear the judge's charge and begin deliberations

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