LA. Drops Ehrlichman 1975

Perjury Case SFChronicle Los Angeles

Superior Court Judge Gordon Ringer, approving a prosecution request, yesterday dismissed a local perjury charge against John Ehrlichman, who was convicted in the Watergate conspiracy.

Assistant District Attorney Stephen Trott moved for dismissal because, he said, continuing with the case would be an "expensive and time-consuming act of vengeance" and "an excess of our obligations."

Ehrlichman was indicted by the county grand jury for allegedly lying about his knowledge of the September, 1971, break-in at Dr. Lewis Fielding's office in Beverly Hills. Fielding was Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist and disclosure of the break-in led to dismissal of charges against Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers case.

Trott pointed out the 49-year-old Ehrlichman had been tried and convicted in a federal court on similar charges and received a sentence which the Los Angeles county district attorney's office considered appropriate.

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