

Attorneys for Ehrlichman Ask New 'Plumbers' Trial

WASHINGTON, March 17 (UPI) — John D. Ehrlichman asked for a new trial in the so-called White House "plumbers" case Monday on the ground that he was not permitted to claim national security as a defense and that testimony was not taken from former President Richard M. Nixon.

Mr. Ehrlichman also said that United States District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, "by gestures and facial expressions," may have created an impression of disbelief among the jurors about his own and other defense testimony.

Mr. Ehrlichman was convicted in July of conspiring to violate the civil liberties of Daniel Ellsberg, and sentenced to 20 months to five years in prison. He remains free, pending appeal. He had supervised the special investigative unit known as the "plumbers," which broke into the office of a Beverly Hills psychiatrist in 1971 in search of damaging information about Dr. Ellsberg, a defendant in the Pentagon Papers case.

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