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URGENT

WASHINGTON Watergate Lead a212 add: pleas

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica gave no reason for the surprise shift behind closed doors and warned the defendants and their lawyers there would be stiff penalties for anyone violating his orders for strict silence.

The closed session came after all of the day's previous trial business had been conducted out of hearing of the courtroom audience and the jury, at benchside before Sirica.

There had been speculation around the U.S. Court House where the trial is in its fifth day that some or all of the six remaining defendants wanted to follow the lead of E. Howard Hunt Jr., who pleaded guilty to six counts Thursday.

A Utah college student has testified that he met weekly with Hunt, a former White House consultant, to exchange intelligence reports on Democrats for envelopes full of money.

Thomas Gregory etc a217 at second graf.

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By ION McLEOD

Associated Press Writer

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