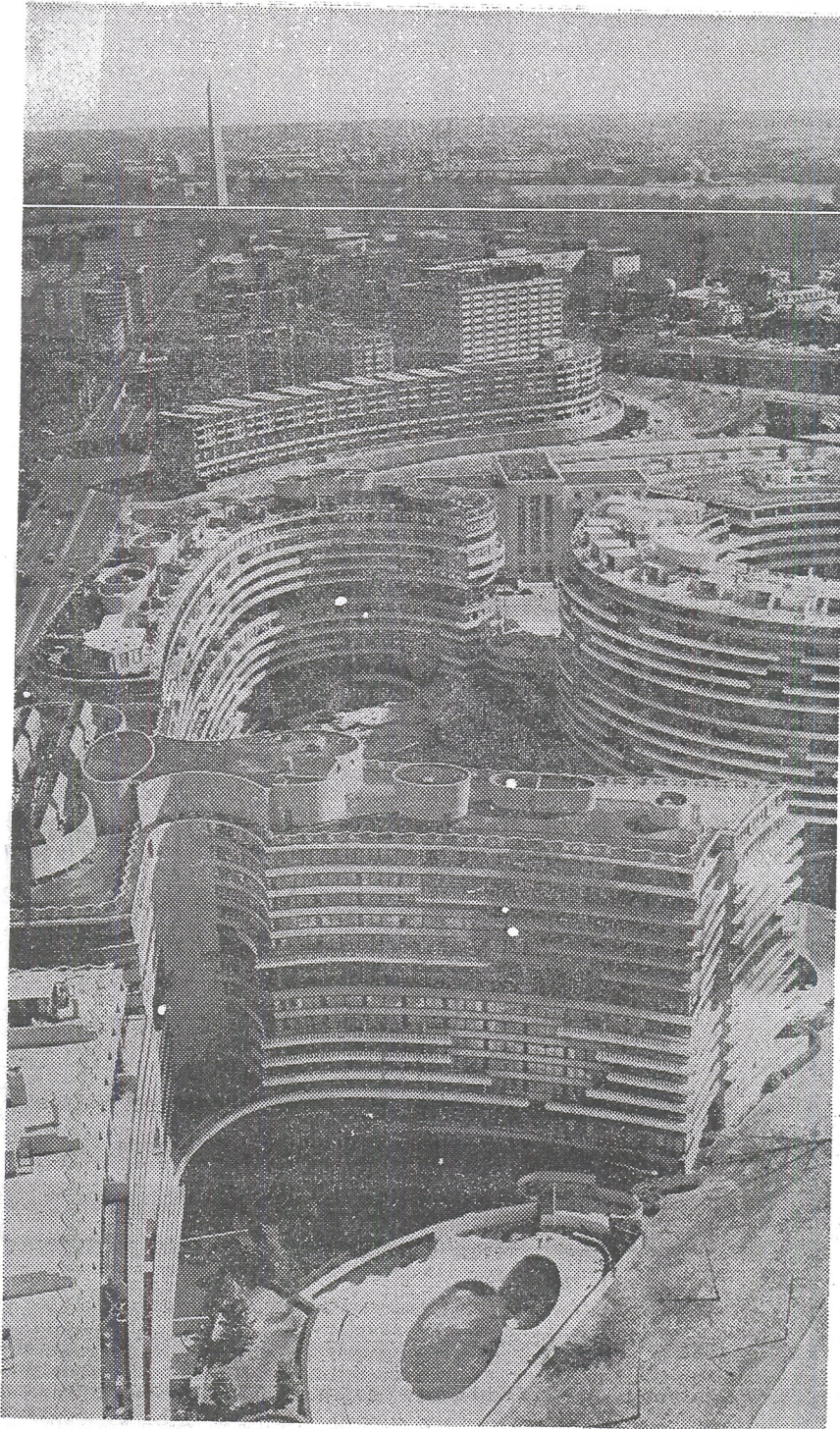


# PROFILES

*Of the Men Indicted in the Watergate Cover-Up*  
*By Lawrence Meyer*

ATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1974



By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post

*The Watergate complex: Where it all began . . .*

# Robert C. Mardian

Former Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Internal Security Division of the Justice Department, Mardian resigned that position in April, 1972, to join the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Although Mardian said he had expected to be deputy campaign director, when he began working at the committee, he was given the job of a campaign coordinator:

## CHARGE

Conspiracy.

## BACKGROUND

In the 1968 Presidential campaign, Mardian, 50, coordinated the Nixon effort in the Western states. Following the election, he joined the Nixon administration, serving as general counsel of the Health, Education and Welfare Department and as executive director of the Cabinet Committee on Education, which was charged with implementing the administration's school desegregation policy. Mardian gained a reputation as a tough conservative who revived the Justice Department's internal security program when he took charge of it in November, 1970.

While assistant attorney general, Mardian was given custody of logs of wiretapped conversations conducted by the FBI over almost a two-year period against four newsmen and 13 government employees in an effort to discover the source of news leaks. After conferring with President Nixon, Mardian turned the logs over to the White House, where they were found last May in a safe belonging to former presidential domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman.

Although deputy Nixon campaign director Jeb Stuart Magruder testified before the Watergate committee that Mardian was "to some extent in-

involved" in the Watergate cover-up, Mardian insisted in his testimony that his involvement in the Watergate affair was as a lawyer only and not as a "political associate."

Despite Mardian's denial, other testimony placed him at meetings where aspects of the cover-up were discussed from a tactical rather than a legal point of view.

Magruder said Mardian was present for a meeting in campaign director John N. Mitchell's apartment the evening of June 19 during which the destruction of illegal wiretap logs was discussed. Frederick C. LaRue, another aide of Mitchell's, corroborated this portion of Magruder's testimony, recalling that Mitchell suggested that "it might be a good idea if Mr. Magruder had a fire."

"I am sorry," Mardian told the Watergate committee. "No such discussion took place in my presence."

Mardian told the committee that on June 21—four days after the Watergate break-in—Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy briefed him and LaRue about the break-in, also providing them with details about the Ellsberg break-in and other matters that Mitchell referred to in his testimony as the White House "horrors." Mardian and LaRue briefed Mitchell on the information they had received from Liddy.

In his testimony, Mardian expressed shock at what he learned in the days following the Watergate arrests and denied a number of allegations made by various witnesses. He denied that he had advised Magruder to erase certain references in his diary. Mardian also denied assertion by former White House counsel John W. Dean III that Mardian was one of those who knew that President Nixon's personal lawyer, Herbert W. Kalmbach, was involved in raising money for the Watergate defendants or that the defendants were pressuring the re-election committee for money to remain silent.

Mardian now lives in Phoenix, Ariz., where he is president of the Mardian Construction Co.

# John D. Ehrlichman

Former top presidential domestic adviser, Ehrlichman was given responsibility for a wide range of activities outside the domestic area, including overseeing the operations of the White House special investigative unit commonly known as "the plumbers."

## CHARGES

Conspiracy, obstruction of justice, making false statements to a grand jury or court, and making false statements to the FBI.

## BACKGROUND

Ehrlichman, 48, was a classmate of former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman's at UCLA in the late 1940s. As a zoning lawyer in Seattle, Ehrlichman maintained contact with Haldeman and worked for Mr. Nixon in his unsuccessful 1960 presidential campaign. In 1968, Ehrlichman served as tour director for the Nixon campaign and came to work in the White House in 1969 as White House counsel, a position he held until November, 1969, when he became Mr. Nixon's principal domestic adviser.

As White House counsel, Ehrlichman established an in-house investigative unit to delve into the private lives of politicians and other public figures. When President Nixon ordered the formation of the plumbers in July, 1971, he instructed Ehrlichman to monitor their activities. A Los Angeles County grand jury indicted Ehrlichman last September on charges of perjury, burglary and conspiracy in connection with the 1971 break-in at the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

An Aug. 11, 1971 White House memo from presidential aides Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr. and David Young recommends that a "covert operation be undertaken to examine all the medical files still held by Ellsberg's psychoanalyst covering the two-year period in which he was undergoing analysis." A notation at the end of the memo, which Ehrlichman acknowledged was his handwriting during testimony before the Watergate committee, indicates approval with the statement, "if done under your assurance that it is not traceable."

Ehrlichman explained in the hearings that he did not know that a break-in would be committed but contemplated instead that a friendly doctor or nurse would be used to help secure the files.

In any case, Ehrlichman contended

that the break-in was legal under the "inherent powers" of the President to protect the national security, a contention that was not accepted by the committee. President Nixon has said in public statements that he did not authorize the break-in and that it was illegal.

Although Ehrlichman denied allegations by former Nixon aide John W. Dean III and others that he had been involved in illegal conduct, he corroborated details of testimony from several witnesses, including Dean.

Ehrlichman acknowledged being present on June 28—11 days after the break-in—when Dean turned over files from the White House safe of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. to acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III.

Ehrlichman said that no suggestion was made to Gray that the files be destroyed, although Gray later testified that he received the "clear impression" that the files should be liquidated. Gray testified he burned the files several months later.

Although Ehrlichman denied any role in or knowledge of the cover-up, he acknowledged having called Gray on June 28 to tell him to cancel a meeting scheduled that afternoon with CIA Director Richard M. Helms at a time when Gray said he was trying to determine whether an unrestricted FBI probe into the Watergate affair would endanger any CIA operations as Gray testified Dean was asserting. Ehrlichman said he wanted the meeting canceled to avoid a "leak" from the FBI.

Ehrlichman acknowledged knowing that money was being raised by Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's personal lawyer, to pay the legal fees and expenses of the Watergate defendants. Ehrlichman said he considered this activity "perfectly proper" and not part of any cover-up.

Although Ehrlichman and Kalmbach agreed in their testimony on the propriety of the payments, they disagreed on a number of details with Ehrlichman denying that he had ever assured Kalmbach that Dean had authority to ask Kalmbach to raise the money or that he ever told Kalmbach that the payments had to remain secret or the Democrats would have "our heads in our laps."

Ehrlichman also denied Dean's assertion that executive clemency for Hunt was discussed in early January, 1972. Ehrlichman testified that, on orders from President Nixon, he instructed top White House aides that the subject of executive clemency was not to be discussed.

# Gordon C. Strachan

A former aide to White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman from August, 1970, until December, 1972, Strachan became general counsel of the United States Information Agency in January, 1973. He resigned that position on April 30, 1973, the day that Haldeman and other administration officials resigned.

## CHARGES

Conspiracy, obstruction of justice, making false statements to a grand jury or court.

## BACKGROUND

Strachan, 30, a graduate of the University of Southern California, received his law degree from the University of California. He worked for President Nixon's former law firm for two years before joining the White House staff in 1970 as an assistant to Haldeman.

Strachan served as the liaison between Haldeman and the Committee for the Re-election of the President during the 1972 campaign.

Former deputy Nixon campaign director Jeb Stuart Magruder testified that Strachan had been kept informed of plans to develop a covert intelligence-gathering operation, involving

break-ins and illegal wiretapping, at the re-election committee. Magruder said he also informed Strachan that the operation had been approved and that he later showed Strachan a copy of material based on wiretap information. In general, Magruder testified, he automatically sent Strachan copies of all important papers from the re-election committee.

Strachan denied in his testimony that he had been briefed about plans for intelligence-gathering or that he had been informed in more than a general way about the approval of the covert operation. Strachan testified that White House counsel John W. Dean III was the White House liaison for intelligence matters. Strachan also denied ever having seen wiretap logs.

Strachan also testified that Haldeman told him on June 20—three days after the break-in—"make sure our files are clean." Strachan testified that he destroyed documents that had been received in the White House from the re-election committee as a result of that order from Haldeman.

Strachan also acknowledged that he returned to Frederick C. LaRue, a re-election committee official, \$350,000 in cash being kept in the White House. LaRue testified that this money was given to the Watergate defendants as part of the cover-up. Strachan testified, however, "I was not told by anyone, nor did I know what use was being made of this money."

# H. R. Haldeman

The former White House chief of staff, Haldeman was widely considered to be the second most powerful man in the White House. Although his function was primarily administrative, Haldeman was able to influence policy by his control over access of persons and papers to President Nixon.

## CHARGES

Conspiracy, obstruction of justice, perjury.

## BACKGROUND

Haldeman, 47, former manager of the Los Angeles office of the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, first worked in Richard Nixon's 1956 campaign for re-election and in all subsequent campaigns in which Mr. Nixon ran for public office. In 1968, Haldeman served as chief of staff for the campaign. Haldeman told the Watergate committee that he attempted to run the White House operation "on what is known in some views as a zero-defect system. We attempted to do everything right." To others, Halde-

man had once boasted, "Every President has his SOB, and I'm Nixon's."

Haldeman was one of a few White House officials who knew that Mr. Nixon was automatically taping conversations in his White House and Executive Office Building offices as well as several telephones.

On at least two occasions, once while still working in the White House and once several months after his April 30, 1973, resignation, Haldeman said he listened to tapes of presidential conversations with White House counsel John W. Dean III at Mr. Nixon's request.

Haldeman and Ehrlichman retained the same lawyer, John J. Wilson, to represent them. Wilson met with Mr. Nixon at least twice before Haldeman and Ehrlichman resigned on April 30, leading to charges that they were coordinating their defense with Mr. Nixon through their attorney.

Since leaving the White House, Haldeman apparently has retained control over certain files in the White House so that access to them by his successor, Alexander M. Haig Jr., had to be cleared with Haldeman, according to the court testimony of Halde-

man's former aide, Lawrence M. Higby.

Although the White House has severely restricted the access of former presidential aides to their papers still in the White House, Wilson has obtained at least one document despite the restriction. Wilson is known to have told others that he had an "arrangement" with the White House, although both Wilson and the White House denied any such arrangement after newspapers accounts of it were published.

According to former White House counsel Dean, who admitted his role in the Watergate cover-up, Haldeman and Ehrlichman were kept regularly briefed by him on steps he was taking

to further the cover-up.

Gordon Strachan, a former aide to Haldeman, testified that on Haldeman's instructions he destroyed political intelligence files sent to Haldeman from the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Strachan testified that he later told Haldeman that he had destroyed the files, although Haldeman said he could recall neither telling Strachan to do so or being told that it had been done.

Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy Nixon campaign director, testified that he had shown Strachan, Haldeman's liaison with the re-election committee, copies of wiretap logs. In addition, Magruder testified that he had told Strachan that a political intelligence-gathering operation was being considered and later that campaign director John N. Mitchell had approved it. Strachan testified that in a memo to Haldeman, discussing about 30 political matters, he wrote that the re-election committee "now has a sophisticated political intelligence-gathering system" and included a sample of the type of information that would be developed. Strachan said he later learned the material was not based on wiretaps. Strachan denied ever having seen wiretap logs.

Although Haldeman denied knowledge of or participation in the Watergate cover-up, other witnesses placed him in key meetings in which aspects of the cover-up were discussed.

Haldeman acknowledged that he had ordered Deputy CIA Director Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters to meet with acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III to discuss limiting the FBI's Watergate investigation if it should jeopardize CIA operations.

Walters put it more strongly, testifying that Haldeman ordered him to tell Gray that the FBI could jeopardize CIA operations in Mexico if it conducted an unrestricted investigation.

Haldeman confirmed that Dean met with Mr. Nixon and Haldeman on Sept. 15, the day that seven men were indicted for the Watergate break-in, but denied that Dean told Mr. Nixon that the cover-up could not be sustained.

Haldeman acknowledged that Dean had told him of payments to the Watergate defendants, but Haldeman insisted that he understood the money was being used for "legal and proper" purposes.

Throughout his testimony, Haldeman insisted that neither he nor President Nixon was aware of any cover-up until Dean informed Mr. Nixon of it for the first time on March 21, 1973, at which time, Haldeman said, Mr. Nixon asked Dean "leading questions" in an attempt to get the facts.

# John N. Mitchell

Attorney General of the United States from January, 1969, until he resigned in March, 1972, Mitchell was director of the Nixon re-election campaign until July 1, 1972, two weeks after the Watergate arrests, when he stepped down.

## CHARGES

Conspiracy, obstruction of justice, making false statements to a grand jury or court, perjury and making false statements to the FBI.

## BACKGROUND

Mitchell, 60, was one of a handful of men comprising President Nixon's inner circle. According to some accounts, Mitchell, who had been Mr. Nixon's law partner, also was his closest political adviser, directing the campaign of 1968 and being called upon to fill the same role in 1972.

According to testimony in the Watergate hearings, Mitchell, while still Attorney General, presided over meetings where plans for a broad scale campaign of espionage and sabotage were discussed, including the bugging of the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters.

Mitchell has denied publicly ever approving the Watergate break-in or any other illegal activity. Former deputy Nixon campaign manager Jeb Stuart Magruder testified under oath

before the Watergate committee that Mitchell approved the project on March 30, 1972 while in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Magruder also testified that Mitchell had been given a copy of reports based on wiretapped telephone conversations in the Watergate. Mitchell said that this charge was a "palpable, damnable lie."

Mitchell also denied testimony by Nixon campaign finance director Maurice H. Stans that Mitchell had told him shortly after March 30 that it was all right to disburse a "substantial amount of money" to Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy.

Following the June 17, 1972 break-in, Mitchell testified before the Watergate committee, he was briefed by two aides about it and other White House "horror stories"—including the September, 1971, break-in at the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in Los Angeles.

Mitchell testified that he never told President Nixon what he had learned about the Watergate affair and other matters for fear that Mr. Nixon would "lower the boom" on those involved, thus jeopardizing his chances for re-election.

Mitchell said he would have told Mr. Nixon if he had asked, but that Mr. Nixon never inquired about the Watergate affair except on June 20, 1972—three days after the break-in—when Mitchell testified he had not yet learned the facts about the Watergate affair or the White House "horrors."

Mitchell also testified that he knew money was being paid to the seven Watergate defendants, although he disclaimed any role in the decision.

Mitchell and Maurice Stans, former chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President, are now on trial in New York on charges of obstruction of justice and lying to the grand jury. They are charged with obtaining a secret \$200,000 campaign contribution from international financier Robert L. Vesco, who was also indicted, in return for helping him with an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

# Charles W. Colson

A former special counsel to the President, Colson resigned from the White House staff last spring to return to the private practice of law. While serving in the White House, Colson was instrumental in the hiring of E. Howard Hunt Jr. and assigned him to several covert projects.

## CHARGES

Conspiracy, obstruction of justice.

## BACKGROUND

In his White House days Colson, 42, developed a reputation for being President Nixon's "tough guy," a man who took on a variety of assignments as something of a political hatchet man and also the White House contact for many of the groups thought to constitute the "silent majority" that Mr. Nixon cultivated. In the late 1950s, Colson worked on the staff of Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) while attending Georgetown Law School at night.

After Saltonstall won re-election in 1960, Colson quit to form his own law firm. He worked in the 1968 Nixon presidential campaign and joined the first Nixon administration in late 1969.

According to public testimony, Colson played a formative role in the preparation of the White House "enemies" list. He also told E. Howard Hunt Jr. to try to fabricate cables implicating President John F. Kennedy in the assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, according to Hunt.

More recently, Colson, who once said, "I would walk over my grandmother if necessary" to assure Mr. Nixon's re-election, has reportedly become deeply religious, saying that he has found an inner serenity in Jesus Christ.

Although Colson was mentioned several times during the Watergate hearings, his role in the Watergate affair and the Ellsberg break-in has not been clearly defined publicly.

According to a transcript of a telephone conversation with Hunt that was recorded by Colson on July 1, 1971, Colson suggested that "the resources are there" for a campaign to discredit Daniel Ellsberg. Hunt was subsequently hired by the White House on Colson's recommendation.

Following the Ellsberg break-in, which was financed with funds borrowed by Colson, Hunt attempted to show Colson photographs of the operation but was rebuffed by Colson, according to Hunt's testimony before a federal grand jury. Hunt quoted Colson as saying, "I don't want to hear anything about them."

In addition, according to a memo from presidential domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman to Colson, dated August 27, 1971, shortly before the Ellsberg break-in, Ehrlichman mentioned "the proposed undertaking by Hunt and (G. Gordon) Liddy" and asked Colson for a "game plan as to how and when you believe the materials should be used" on the assumption that the operation "would be successful."

Colson later told the FBI that he learned of the break-in "sometime after" it occurred but was ordered by Ehrlichman not to discuss it because it was a national security matter.

Former deputy Nixon campaign manager Jeb Stuart Magruder testified before the Senate Watergate committee that sometime prior to March 30, 1972, Colson called and "asked me in a sense would we get off the stick and get the budget approved for Mr. Liddy's plans." Magruder said, however, that Colson "did not mention anything about wiretapping or espionage."

According to former White House counsel John W. Dean III, both Colson and Mr. Nixon told him that Colson had spoken to the President about executive clemency for Hunt. Dean said that he learned from others that Colson had assured Hunt that he would receive executive clemency and that Hunt was satisfied with those assurances. Hunt, however, told the committee in September that he did not ask for and was not offered clemency.

Colson, originally scheduled to be a witness before the committee, invoked the Fifth Amendment when questioned by the committee in September after informing the committee that he had been told he was a target of a federal grand jury investigation looking into the Ellsberg break-in and other matters.

# Kenneth W. Parkinson

A Washington lawyer retained by the Committee for the Re-election of the President following the June 17, 1972, break-in at the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters, Parkinson represented the re-election committee in several suits brought by Democratic Party officials and others.

## CHARGES

Conspiracy, obstruction of justice.

## BACKGROUND

Parkinson, 46, has been active in civic and legal affairs for several years. He is a past president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and has served as an officer of the District Bar Association, president of the Legal Aid Society and vice chairman of the antipoverty Neighborhood Legal Services Project.

According to the indictment, Parkinson acted as a middle-man between the original Watergate defendants and the White House and re-election committee officials allegedly involved in the cover-up.

Parkinson, the indictment charges,

gave White House counsel John W. Dean III a list of anticipated expenses for the Watergate defendants.

Parkinson also allegedly attended a meeting with Dean and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell in mid-July 1972 in which Mitchell directed Dean to obtain FBI reports of the investigation for Parkinson and others.

Parkinson also sat in on FBI interviews with re-election committee employees. In one instance, according to the affidavit of an employee who had requested a second interview with the FBI with no one else present, Parkinson confronted the employee and told her, "I hear you have been talking to the FBI." Parkinson contended in an interview that he was not attempting to intimidate the employee when he made that remark.

*Letters to the Editor and syndicated columns will resume their normal position on this page tomorrow.*