

Trial Locations Post 7-24-74

We are hearing a lot lately about how John Ehrlichman couldn't get a fair trial in the District of Columbia because the District voted 78% for McGovern and has a black majority as well. The implication is that a change of venue would have improved the chances for acquittal of Mr. Ehrlichman, who is a white Republican.

Why not make it a matter of judicial policy that defendants' racial and political characteristics be taken into consideration when picking a trial location?

White Democrats could be tried, say, in Cambridge, Massachusetts (Middlesex County, 56% for McGovern and a white majority). Black Democrats could be tried in Tuskegee, Alabama (Macon County, 65% for McGovern and a black majority) White Republicans could be tried in Phoenix, Arizona (Maricopa County, 72% for Nixon and a white majority).

And, of course, for a truly fair trial, Mr. Nixon could request a change of venue from the Senate of the United States (57% Democrat) to the State Legislature of Kansas (64% Republican) or better yet, to the Soviet Union, where his approval rating is higher than it is in the United States.

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