Court Set For Report On Nixon

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Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell will complete his testimony and former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman will take the stand in his own defense at the Watergate conspiracy trial today.

A three-physician team also will report to Judge John J. Sirica on the biggest remaining question in the 42-day trial —whether former President Nixon is well enough to testify.

Nixon has been suffering from complications following phlebitis, a blood vessel disorder. The team examined him in San Clemente, Calif., on Monday and said they unanimously agreed on the prognosis—but would give it only to Sirica.

The 14 women and 3 men who comprise the jury and its alternates ate Thanksgiving dinner with a few member of their families. The jury has been sequestered in a downtown motel since it was seated Oct. 11.

Sirica remarked Wednesday that he believes the trial will be over by Christmas—a target he has held out for several months. If Nixon is unable to testify, his expectation probably will be realized.

Mitchell's defense has taken only two days, and Haldeman's lawyer estimated his defense will require only two or three days. William S. Frates, attorney for former White House domestic affairs adviser John D. Ehrlichman, said he may call several witnesses, including the original Watergate defendants.

Mitchell steadfastly denied any knowledge of the planning and cover-up, but acknowledged he withheld information from Watergate investigators during the early stages "for obvious reasons"—Nixon's re-election.

Attorneys for former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian and Kenneth W. Parkinson, who did legal work for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, said their defense may require several days each.

All the defendants remained in Washington for Thanksgiving. Ehrlichman was joined by his daughter, Jan, a student at Principia College. The wives of Haldeman and Mardian have been here throughout the trial. Mitchell is separated, and Parkinson lives here.