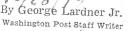
Watergate Prosecutors Close Case 12/28



The chief prosecutor at the Watergate cover-up trial somberly asked the jurors yesterday to close the ledger on Watergate with a verdict that will "balance the accounts" owed to the public.

In a short, succinct closing statement, chief prosecutor James F. Neal said the only excuse the five defendants had offered at the long trial for "this whole massive coverup" had been to try to put the blame on men who had once been their subordinates.

"If you believe that," Neal said curtly, almost contemptuously, "find the defendants not guilty."

The jury seemed to hang on every word as Neal reminded them that the final judgment on the scandal was up to them.

He refrained once again from asking openly for guilty - verdicts, but he submitted that the evidence was more than adequate against each of the five men sitting at separate defense tables with their lawyers: former White House aides H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, and Nixon re-election committee advisers Robert C. Mardian and Kenneth Wells Parkinson.

"This case," Neal said in slow, deliberate tones that seemed thick with emotion, "is not a political case-not a case of one party against another. I condemn lawlessness by one side or the other ---wherever it is committed."

But in a democracy that rests on the consent of the governed, Neal added, "the only salvation for us all ... is the faith of the people that their high officials will be fair, honorable and lawful-that the officials of the land will not play ignoble roles-that they may strike hard blows.

See TRIAL, A4, Col. 1

TRIAL, From A1

but they must not strike foul blows."

With the oratory all done and the testimony concluded. U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica told the jurors he would call them back Monday for his final instructions in the law before they begin their deliberations.

The defense arguments, which took nearly 15 hours in all, ended earlier in the day with an emotional windup by Parkinson's lawyer, client had been an innocent properly at the outset at least. dupe of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

fling into a handkerchief, Stein Pope's Essay on Man: contrasted Parkinson's longstanding propriety as a Washington lawyer with the character of government witnesses who testified against him, such a former Nixon campaign deputy Jeb Stuart Magruder.

"What is good character worth?" Stein asked, citing all the various judges and attorneys who had trooped to the witness stand earlier in the the defense arguments began trial on Parkinson's behalf.

"Is it to be redeemed in a moment of crisis or is it to be thrown away and tossed out cynically in favor of the testimony of confessed perjurers and ambitious people who Cabinet-level posts, seek knowing they are liars and thieves?"

serving as a middleman for hush-money messages to and from the original Watergate defendants after he had been hired to defend the re-election committee against litigation prompted by the June 17, 1972, break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters here.

Stein protested that the government had not even been able to show just when Parkinson was supposed to have joined the conspiracy. Even Watergate prosecutors, the de-Jacob fense lawyer said, conceded Stein, who contended that his that Parkinson had acted

Calling Parkinson's case a sad one, Neal countered with a Choking back sobs and snif- quatrain from Alexander

> Vice is a monster of so frightful mien, As to be hated needs but to be seen: Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face. We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

The government rebutal to with Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste, who concentrated on Haldeman's contention that he never intended to obstruct justice in the Wateragte case. The former White House chief of staff had said he was unaware that the payments to the original Watergate defend-The Watergate grand jury ants were meant as "hush had accused Parkinson of money" until March 21, 1973,



Associated Press

Watergate defendant Kenneth Wells Parkinson, right, arrives at court with his mother and attorney Jacob Stein.

Counsel John W. Dean III told Haldeman's lawyers, the marks when he underwent tracking down some telltale Nixon and Haldeman of E. young prosecutor charged, had cross-examination, the prose- Nixon campaign checks that Howard Hunt Jr.'s latest plainly erred in claiming that 'blackmail" demand.

stantial evidence alone-which money knowledge on Haldehe likened to mother finding a man's part. broken jar of jam on the old with jam all over his face the jurors that Haldeman had off." -suggested otherwise.

gentlemen," Ben-Veniste de- "what we had to give" to get innocuous motives in enlisting was publicly known as a supclared, in a reference to the past the 1972 elections. \$429,500 secretly paid out for

when former White House the Watergate burglars. And man could offer for those re-1972, to keep the FBI from Ben-Veniste said the circum- ings showed no sign of hush-

spoken then of "blackmail" in "There are 429,500 jars of the past tense and described casm, Ben-Veniste also as-jam in this case, ladies and the first rush of payments as sailed Haldeman's claims on paign contributor when he

cutor declared, was to state: "I had been cashed by one of the the White House tape record- don't know what was in my Watergate burglars. mind at the time."

an's part. Quoting from the March 21 the jurors. "It's on his hands merely wanted to spare one of kitchen floor and her 3-year- tape, Ben-Veniste reminded and his face and he can't get it the contributors, Minneapolis

> His voice laden with sartop officials of the Central In- porter of Democratic candi-The only explanation Halde- telligence Agency on June 23, date Hubert H. Humphrey.

The former White House "Here is the jam, ladies and chief of staff and his lawyers businessman Dwayne Andreas, the embarrassment of being