

Watergate trial jurors begin final deliberations

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The jurors in the Watergate coverup trial began their final deliberations Monday with an admonition from the trial judge to consider 11 week of testimony "fearlessly, calmly and dispassionately."

The nine women and three men on the panel considered the case against the five defendants for just under four hours before returning to their hotel.

Their deliberation in a tiny chamber just off the courtroom of U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica resumes at 9:30 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The five defendants, three of whom were close aides to former President Richard M. Nixon, are accused of conspiring to obstruct the investigation into the 1972 break-in at Democratic

National Committee headquarters. The grand jury that returned the cover-up indictment named Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator.

In his instructions, Sirica warned the jurors against considering anything but evidence heard in the courtroom.

"Neither the pardon of former President Nixon nor any other cases or extraneous matters should have any effect on your deliberations or your verdict," Sirica said.

Before quitting for the day, the jury requested all of the trial testimony of defendant John N. Mitchell, the former attorney general's April 20, 1973, grand jury testimony, plus the trial testimony of three key prosecution witnesses, Fred C. LaRue, Jeb Stuart Magruder, and former White House counsel John W.

Dean III.

Sirica turned down the request, saying, "It would be impossible. We would be trying this case all over again."

The judge estimated that it would take three weeks for the jurors to read Mitchell's testimony alone.

Lawyers familiar with the case said Hoffar sent out a note from the jurors' room requesting additional copies of the 10count indictment against the defendants.

Bulletin

City Police were investigating an armed robbery at Gino's on U.S. 40W at presstime. No further details were available concerning the robbery which occurred shortly after 11:30 p.m.