## Watergate jury begins deliberations

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jury yesterday retired to con- Nixon. sider its verdict in the political scandal case, after being the jury on the 62d day of the warned by the judge not to allow its decision in the trial of five former White House advisers to be influenced by the

Washington-The Watergate pardoning of former President

In his final instructions to conspiracy trial at United States District Court, Judge John J. Sirica made a point of emphasizing that the case should be decided "solely on the evidence presented in court."

Less than four hours after beginning its deliberations at 12.30 P.M., the jury emerged

Ashland Oil, Inc., was fined \$25,000 yesterday for unlawful contributions to political candidates .... Page A5

with a request for voluminous grand jury and trial testimony records.

It was refused by the judge, who told jurors that honoring their request would be "like trying the case all over again." The request was neither feasible nor practical, the judge added, as he went on to suggest that jurors rely on their recollections of testinony.

The jury then suspended deiberations for the day.

The possible impact on jurors of Mr. Nixon's pardon by President Ford while erstwhile Nixon loyalists went on trial has been throughout the case a source of hope to the defense and concern to the prosecution. Seven of the 12 jurors are understood to have indicated in secret pretrial interrogation that they felt the Nixon pardon was unfair.

"The object of this trial is to ascertain the truth about the issues that have been submitted for your determination," Judge Sirica told the jury during 21/2 hours of legal instruction.

He advised them they could See TRIAL, A5, Col. 1

## TRIAL, from A1

good a fair and impartial trial."

that a "just and proper verdict" in the Watergate case would make "a valuable con
tice, could be fined \$15,000 and imprisoned 10 years.

To aid them in their delibertribution to efficient judicial administration."

minds you that in your deliber- tions of the 31 White House ations in the jury room, there tapes that were introduced into can be no triumph of anything evidence over defense objecother than the ascertainment tions. and declaration of the truth," Judge Sirica added.

beginning of the end of the the Interior Department, one Watergate trial, the criminal of three male jurors. case with its roots in a political scandal and resulted in middle-aged, with ages from 27 indictment of many of those to 68, and includes government who had worked for him.

## 10 counts

counts of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury cially into brought against the defendants four whites. -John N. Mitchell, former Atlichman, former White House panel for three months, were domestic chief of staff; Robert dismissed by Judge Sirica with C. Mardian, former assistant an admonition not to discuss attorney general, and Kenneth their views on the case. W. Parkinson, former Nixon campaign attorney.

against the defendants, Mr. Mitarrive at the truth "by using chell would be subject to a maxcommonsense, imum penalty of 25 years in objectively and without any prison and fines of \$35,000. passion, bias, prejudice or Ehrlichman, who is appealing emotion, remembering at all a guilty verdict and sentence times that you are under oath of 20 months to 5 years in to give all parties in this case prison in another case, could be jailed 20 years and fined The jury's duty was to ascerbe jailed 25 years and fined \$35,000. Mr. Haldeman could tain the truth, the judge \$16,000. Mr. Mardian, charged stressed, and that truth would only with obstructing justice, be deduced only from the testi-could be sent to prison for 5 mony and evidence which had years and fined \$10,000. Mr. been set before the court. He Parkinson, charged with contold jurors to keep in mind spiracy and obstructing jus-

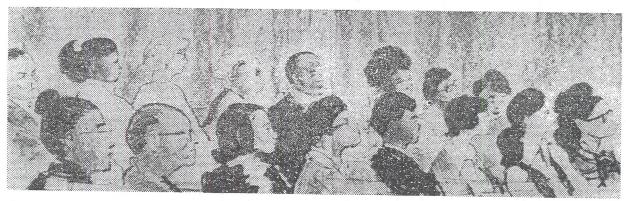
To aid them in their deliberations, jurors can refresh their memories on key testimony by "To that end, the court re- asking to hear once again por-

The panel chose as its foreman John A. Hoffar, a 57-Yesterday thus marked the year-old former supervisor at

The jury is predominantly workers, a school matron, a hotel doorman, an office machine operator, a longistics coor-The jury will consider the 10 dinator, a countergirl and a cially into eight blacks and

The four alternate jurors, torney General; John D. Ehr- who were sequestered with the

Depending on the length of their deliberations, jurors now If a guilty verdict on all may spend New Year's Eve, counts should be returned New Year's Day and longer



The Watergate jurors-the dozen regulars and four alternates-listen of Judge John J. Sirica instruct them be-

fore beginning deliberations in the case. This sketch was made by Steven Kidd.

evaluating the mass of testi- which is the overall charge mony accumulated in court against the defendants. since early October.

In their search for the truth, jurors must recall, discuss and assess the testimony of the defendants, each of whom took the stand in his own behalf, and of key government witnesses such as John W. Dean also "deliberately closing the 3d, former White House legal eyes to what would otherwise counsel, and Jeb Stuart Ma-have been obvious, with a congruder, former deputy direc-scious purpose to evade prosetor of the Nixon campaign. cution." Both are in jail for obstructing justice.

What is impossible to assess is the jury's subconscious reaction to the gap in the evidence -the lack of testimony by Richard M. Nixon, the trial's missing witness. The illness of the former President, certified by a court-appointed panel of doctors, led to Judge Sirica's quashing the subpoena issued for Mr. Nixon's testimony as a defense witness in the Ehrlichman case.

But the voice and the presence of Mr. Nixon haunted the trial. His name frequently was raised in testimony by witnesses for both government and defense. Two defendants-Ehrlichman and Mr. Mardian -made clear they hold the onetime President responsible for the Watergate disaster.

And the jurors, who listened to 15 hours of once-secret White House tapes, filter through their headphones, hear the voice of Mr. Nixon scheming with his chief advisers as they sought to extricate themselves from Watergate.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Sirica carefully delineated the conspiracy statute

In a conspiracy case, the judge explained, it is sufficient to show that conspirators "came to a mutual under-