

Few Tears, a Bit of Anger As the Verdicts Are Read

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 — There were few tears in the courtroom, and only one open display of anger, as four members of the Nixon Administration were found guilty today of taking part in a criminal conspiracy to obstruct justice in the Watergate scandal.

Moments after the verdicts were announced, Dorothy Mardian, the wife of Robert C. Mardian, who was convicted, stuck out her tongue and sounded a Bronx cheer as she gazed toward Judge John J. Sirica.

But while Mrs. Mardian was the only one to react angrily at the outcome of the Watergate trial, it was obvious that all the defendants and their wives were shocked by the verdicts.

Later, after consulting with their attorneys, the four convicted men announced that they would appeal the verdicts, probably within the next few days.

As the jury filed into the deathly quiet courtroom just before 4 P.M., the defendants stood impassively. The jury

foreman, John A. Hoffar, an enrolled Republican, handed a thick brown envelope to the Clerk of the Court, James Capitanio.

As the clerk intoned "Guilty . . . Guilty . . . Guilty . . . Guilty . . . Guilty," John N. Mitchell, who was Attorney General and a close friend of former President Richard M. Nixon, flushed deeply.

Then, leaning down, he whispered to his attorney, William G. Hundley: "Don't take it so hard."

And as the clerk announced that Kenneth Wells Parkinson had been acquitted, Mr. Mitchell whispered, "Congratulations.

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Good, Ken."

Later, asked his reaction to his conviction, Mr. Mitchell, with just a trace of a smile, said, "Do I have any reaction? Can't you guesstimate? Do I have to tell you?"

Asked if he planned to take a vacation, the former Attorney General said: "I'm going to the moon, I think."

Mr. Parkinson brushed a few tears from his eyes as the clerk announced his acquittal. And Mrs. H. R. Haldeman, whose husband was convicted, put her arms around Mrs. Parkinson and whispered: "I'm so glad for you."

Later, after walking out of the courtroom, his arm around his wife, Mr. Parkinson said: "Obviously, I'm thrilled. I feel great. I've always had great faith and hope and it worked out."

Asked about his plans, he smiled and said: "I'm going to go home and take a hot bath."

For long minutes after the verdicts were announced and the court was adjourned, Mr. Mardian, a former Government official, continued sitting at a table. He appeared stunned and unable to move.

He finally left the court when his wife came up to him and whispered in his ear. He refused comment on his conviction.

Haldeman States Innocence

As the clerk announced the conviction of Mr. Haldeman, who once was former President Nixon's chief of staff, Mrs. Haldeman sat with her head bowed and her eyes squeezed shut. Then, opening her eyes, she turned to Mrs. John D. Ehrlichman, the wife of another convicted defendant, and the two women smiled at each other.

Later, as he emerged from the courthouse and stood in the misty rain, Mr. Haldeman faced a barrage of television cameras as he said that only one human being in the whole world knew the facts about the Watergate affair.

"That person is me and I know that legally and morally I'm totally and absolutely innocent. I have the full conviction that ultimately the truth will be known."

Susan Haldeman, a law student who attended every session of her father's long trial, burst into tears briefly as she left the courtroom.

The Ehrlichmans, their arms around each other, walked from the courtroom to a nearby office, where they telephoned

four of their five children in California and the state of Washington to tell them of the verdicts.

Later, as his wife watched him with adoring eyes, Mr. Ehrlichman emerged for a long, news conference in which he said he felt he had not had a fair trial.

"If there ever has been a political trial in this country," he said, smiling slightly, "this was it."

Ruling on Nixon Cited

He said he was convinced from the outset that he would be unable to get a fair trial in the District of Columbia and that "nothing" that has happened today has changed my mind."

He said the turning point in the trial came when Judge Si-

rica ruled that Mr. Nixon would not be required to testify or give a deposition. Asked if he felt that Mr. Nixon should have voluntarily come forth as a witness, Mr. Ehrlichman replied: "No, it's not reasonable or fair to expect him to come forward voluntarily. It was up to the judicial process to bring him forward."

Asked if he still considered Mr. Nixon a friend, he replied: "I hope I consider everyone my friend. I don't consider him anything else."

He said he felt that President Ford's pardon of Mr. Nixon "was a good thing" for the good of the country.

"It's past time for an end to this matter, the anguish it has done to family after family, to individual after individual. It's been a tragedy from beginning to end."