
Mitchell,

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Haldeman,

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Mardian, Ehrlichman Guilty on All Counts

One of 5 Defendants In Cover-up Trial, Parkinson, Cleared

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By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The most powerful men of Richard Nixon's first administration—H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, and John N. Mitchell—were convicted yesterday of every charge against them in the massive Watergate cover-up.

A solemn-faced jury of nine women and three men delivered the New Year's Day verdicts in a tense courtroom after three days of deliberation over the scandal that began as a burglary and brought down a President.

Former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian, a top adviser in the Nixon re-election campaign, was also convicted, on a single charge of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Washington attorney Kenneth Wells Parkinson, who had been a lawyer for the Nixon re-election committee, was acquitted.

The judgments, which will be appealed, concluded a compelling and historic 64-day trial that produced evidence of efforts emanating from the White House's Oval Office to thwart the original Watergate investigation with the help of lies, shredded documents, manipulation of the FBI and the CIA, and the payment of hush money to keep those who had been caught from talking.

The verdicts came in stunning succession as U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica's gray-haired clerk, James Capitanio, read them out, one by one, in a nervous voice while the defendants stood facing him.

Fifteen times he intoned the word "guilty" after a summary, sing-song recital of each count in the cover-up indictment, changing pace only at the end when he finally reached Parkinson's name.

Mitchell's face grew red as he heard the judgments against him. Haldeman and Ehrlichman stood stolidly, hands clasped in front of them, their backs to the courtroom audience. Mardian seemed stunned. Parkinson was elated as his lawyer thumped him heartily on the back.

The former Attorney General of the United States and director of the Nixon re-election effort, Mitchell, 61, was found guilty on five separate counts: conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and lying on three separate occasions to either the Watergate grand jury or the Senate Watergate committee. He faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison and fines totaling \$37,000.

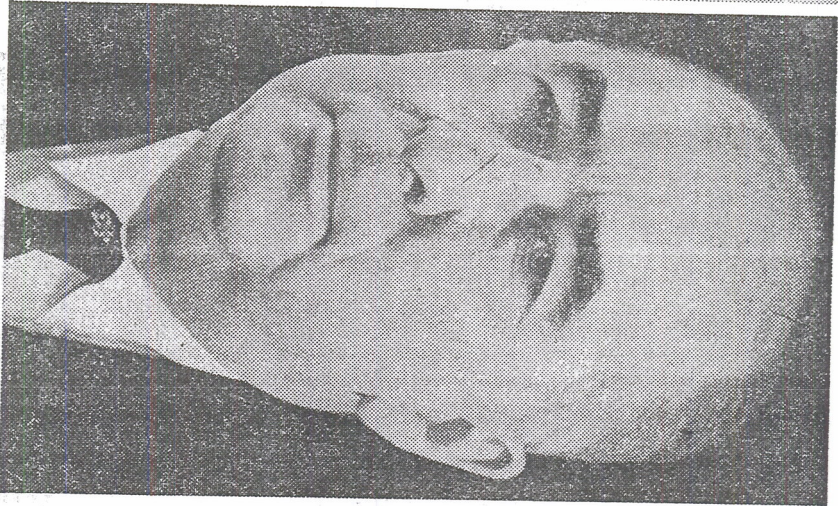
Haldeman, 48, once the No. 2 man at the White House as Nixon's chief of staff, was also convicted of five separate felonies: conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and three counts of perjury before the Senate Watergate committee. Like Mitchell, he faces prison terms that could total 25 years—five years on each count—and fines of \$21,000.

The former White House aide in charge of domestic affairs, Ehrlichman, 49, was convicted on four charges: conspiracy, obstruction of justice and lying on two occasions before the Watergate grand jury. He faces as much as 20 years in prison and fines of \$35,000.

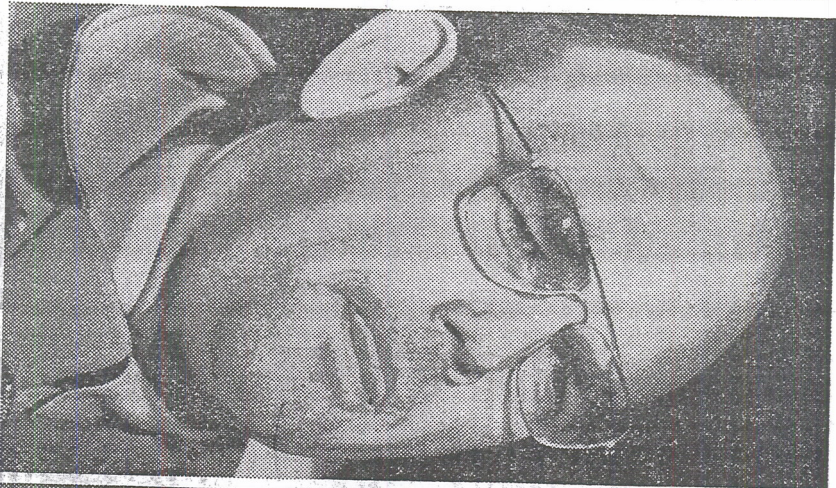
The 50-year-old Mardian, the only one of the five defendants to be accused of conspiracy alone, faces a five-year prison term and a \$10,000 fine for his role in devis-



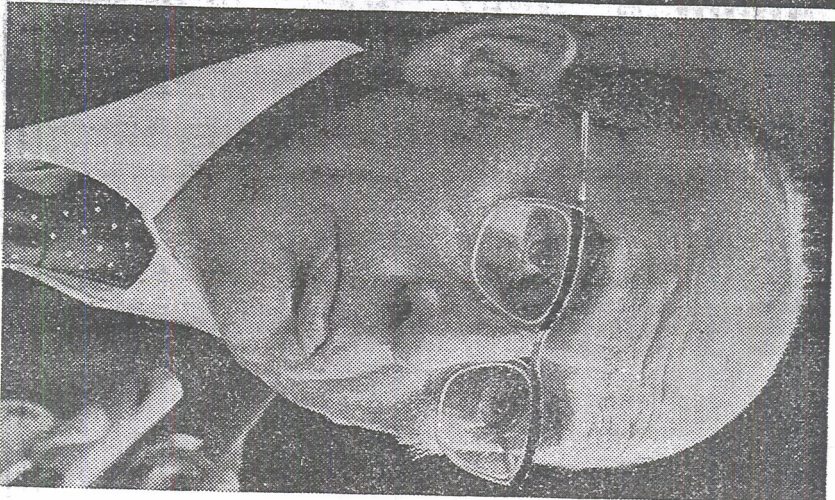
H. R. (BOB) HALDEMAN
... "I'm totally innocent!"



JOHN N. MITCHELL
... "I'm going to the moon!"



JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN
... "It changes nothing!"

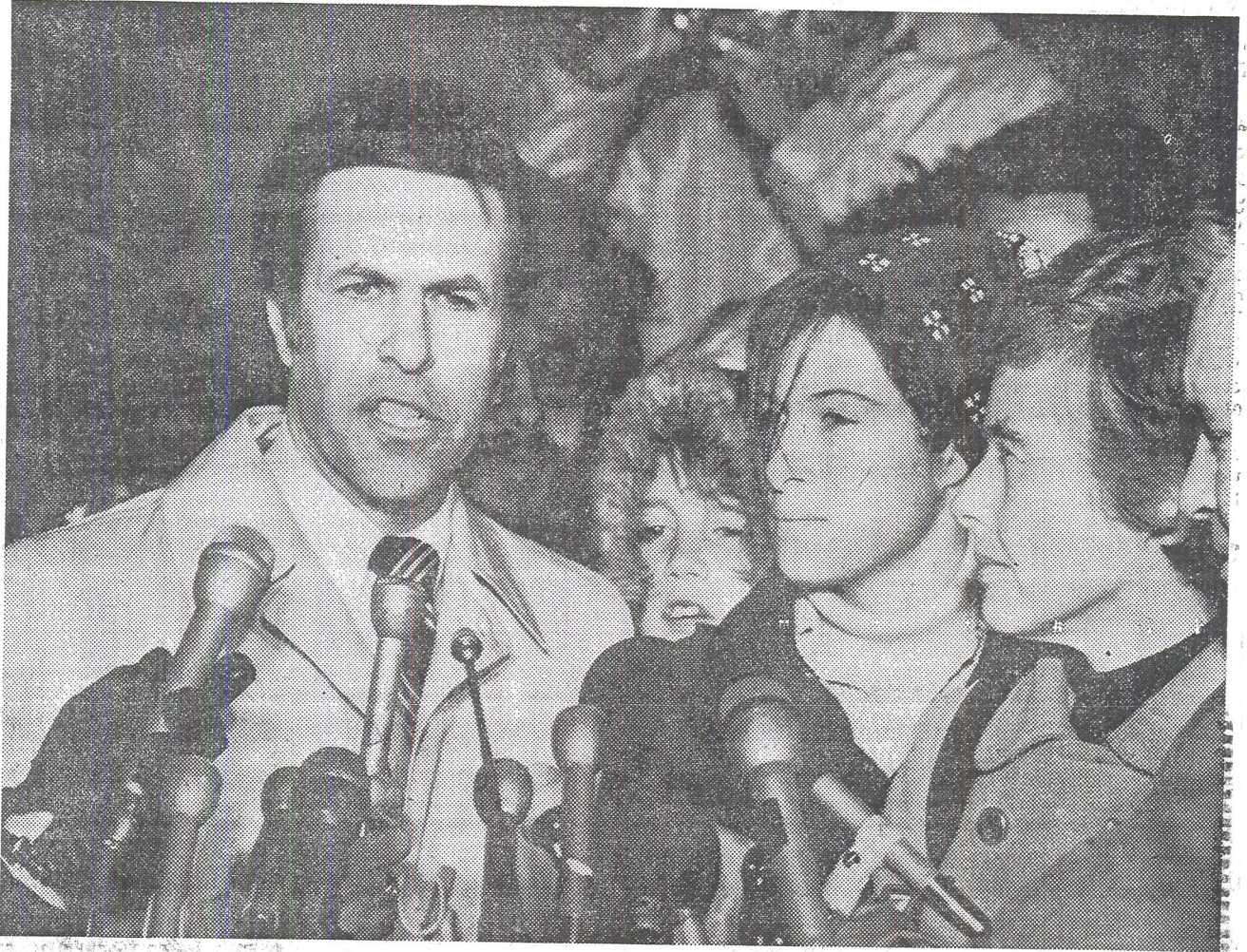


ROBERT C. MARDIAN
... seemed stunned



Associated Press

Kenneth Wells Parkinson and his wife, Pamela, rejoice over his acquittal.



By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

Convicted Watergate defendant H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, his daughter, Susan, and wife, Jo, beside him, talk to reporters.



By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post
Convicted Watergate cover-up defendant John D. Ehrlichman, with his wife, Pam, answers reporters' questions.

TRIAL, From A1

ing the initial cover-up strategy after the June 17, 1972, arrests of five men who had broken into Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate, carrying an assortment of electronic bugging equipment.

By contrast, Parkinson, 47, had been accused of both conspiracy and obstruction of justice, but he was acquitted on both counts. Hired to defend the Committee for the Re-election of the President against Watergate litigation, he said at the trial that he had been repeatedly misled by Mitchell, Mardian and others into thinking

trace of a smile, "can't you guesstimate; do I have to tell you?" and then added that he would do so "for sure."

Someone asked him if he planned to take a vacation after the long courtroom ordeal.

"I'm going to the moon, I think" the former Attorney General replied. "That's the best place."

Speculation that verdicts were imminent built throughout the day as the jurors asked first for a repeat of Judge Sirica's instructions on perjury law and then for a complete list of the documentary evidence introduced at the prolonged trial.

Finally, at 4:25 p.m., while Sirica was in his chambers chatting with a group of reporters, a deputy U.S. marshal

that the Watergate burglars had been off "on a lark of their own."

Judge Sirica released the four convicted men on their own recognizance and said he would wait for the usual background report from probation officials before imposing sentence. He dismissed the jurors with thanks for their work and wishes for a "Happy New Year." At that, Mrs. Mardian stuck out her tongue and gave them a Bronx cheer.

Still protesting their innocence, all four defendants said they would fight their convictions.

Asked if he planned an appeal, Mitchell said with a

hurried in with a note informing him that the jurors had completed their work.

The judge's second-floor courtroom at the otherwise nearly empty courthouse was occupied within minutes. The wives of four of the defendants—Pam Parkinson, Jo Haldeman, Jean Ehrlichman and Dorothy Mardian—sat side by side in a second row as their husbands took their accustomed places at separate tables in a well of the courtroom.

The jurors, led by John A. Hoffer, filed in at 4:48 p.m. and took their seats—almost all of them staring straight ahead without a glance at the defendants.

Parkinson: Lawsuit Counsel

Kenneth Wells Parkinson, a Washington lawyer, came late into the Watergate affair as an attorney for the Nixon reelection committee.

His mission was to help defend the committee against a civil suit filed by the Democrats. He emerged under indictment for conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

On the stand, Parkinson pictured himself as an innocent courier who merely delivered messages he did not understand. Prosecutors said he passed a list of money demands from the Watergate burglars to White House counsel John W. Dean III.

However, Parkinson acknowledged putting into a paper shredder notes of a conversation in which Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy director of the committee had talked about the burglary and implicated people in the White House and in the upper echelons of the campaign committee.

"Looking back on it, it was a very serious mistake in judgment on my part," Parkinson said.

Parkinson also said he relayed messages to and from William O. Bittman, lawyer for the Watergate spy Howard Hunt. But he said he never knew the contents of the messages.

A Washington native, Parkinson once was a law clerk in the courthouse where he has been standing trial. He has held offices in the D.C. Board of Trade, the Legal Aid Society, and the D.C. Bar Association.



Members of the Watergate cover-up jury and court officials leaving for lunch break on second day of deliberation.

Associated Press



Haldeman lawyer John J. Wilson, left, chats with Judge Sirica before the verdict.

Haldeman: Nixon's Chief of Staff

H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, a former advertising man, attached himself to Richard M. Nixon's political career as early as 1956, rode it to the pinnacle of the White House in 1968, and then fell with it in the collapsing Watergate scandal in 1973.

"Every President has his SOB, and I'm Nixon's," Haldeman would tell friends, and those who knew him as White House chief of staff realized what he meant. Tough and brusque, he ran the staff with relentless efficiency until he resigned on April 30, 1973.

Haldeman denied to the end that he participated in any conspiracy to cover up

the Watergate burglary, despite the contention of witnesses that he attended meetings where aspects of the cover-up were discussed.

It was alleged that Haldeman's central role was to deflect the FBI from a penetrating investigation of the break-in. He was accused of putting the Central Intelligence Agency in the FBI's path.

Haldeman acknowledged that he had told Deputy CIA Director Vernon A. Walters to meet with acting FBI's Director L. Patrick Gray III to discuss limiting the FBI's investigation. Walters said Haldeman ordered him to tell Gray that the FBI investigation, unless restric-

ted, might jeopardize CIA operations in Mexico.

Haldeman was a California advertising executive when he first joined a Nixon campaign. It was in 1956 and he signed on as an advance man in the vice presidential campaign that year. He worked again for Nixon in 1958, traveling the country to help Republican congressional candidates. He also worked in the campaigns of 1960, 1962, and 1968.

After resigning in 1973, Haldeman moved to California with his wife and four children. The indictment charged him with conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury.

Ehrlichman: Nixon's Domestic Adviser

Like Haldeman, who was his classmate at the University California in Los Angeles, John D. Ehrlichman also rode the Nixon career into the white House.

He was a zoning lawyer in Seattle when he first joined Nixon in the presidential campaign of 1960, working as an advance man. Like Haldeman, he, too, was a tough taskmaster, noted both for an abrasive manner and an emphasis on punctuality.

In the 1968 campaign, Ehrlichman was promoted to the position of "tour director," in charge of timing and details on the road.

After Nixon's inauguration, he was named counsel

to the President and subsequently became the special assistant in charge of domestic affairs, a position that gave him easy access to the President and broad authority over the government's domestic programs. With Haldeman, he resigned on April 30, 1973.

While serving as counsel to Nixon, he established an in-house investigative unit, and ultimately was instructed to monitor the activities of the group known as the "Plumbers."

Last year he was convicted of conspiracy in the operation that resulted in the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychia-

trist. He has been living in Seattle with his wife and five children since resigning from the White House last year.

In the Washington trial, he was accused of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury. He had acknowledged knowing that money was being raised to pay legal fees and expenses of the original Watergate defendants, but he insisted that it was a proper deed and did not represent part of any cover-up.

Prosecutors also charged that he was involved in ordering destruction of evidence and offering clemency to the break-in defendants.

Mitchell: Nixon Committee Chief

Since the mid-1960s, when their Wall Street law firms merged, John N. Mitchell and Richard M. Nixon had been close friends and political partners.

Mitchell already was one of the country's preeminent bond lawyers when the two met in New York. Nixon then was reestablishing a law career and preparing to run for President in 1968.

Nixon chose Mitchell as his 1968 campaign manager. He called him "my closest adviser . . . on all legal matters and on many other matters as well."

After the election, Mitchell was appointed Attorney General, charged with fulfilling one of Nixon's major campaign promises—the reduction of crime. He was Attorney General until 1972, when Nixon summoned him to head the re-election campaign.

Mitchell was indicted by the Watergate grand jury for conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury, and accused specifically of approving a political intelligence plan that led to the

Watergate break-in. He denied ever approving of the break-in or any other illegal activity.

He also contended that he had been made a fall guy in the case by a number of White House aides, including H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman.

Mitchell had resigned from the campaign in 1972, after the Watergate burglary, claiming that he did so at the insistence of his wife, Martha. The couple has been separated since September, 1973.

Mardian: Campaign Coordinator

Robert C. Mardian came into the first Nixon administration in 1969 as a successful political coordinator, the man who was in charge of the Western states during the campaign of 1968.

His first positions were as general counsel of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and executive director of the Cabinet Committee on Education, where he gained the reputation as the administration's man in charge of slowing down public school desegregation.

A political conservative, Mardian was a chief architect of the administration's position opposing school busing as a solution in desegregation cases.

He later was moved to the Justice Department where he received the internal security program, directed against militants and radicals the department deemed to be subversive.

Mardian was charged by the Watergate grand jury with conspiracy to obstruct justice. Prosecutors claimed

he took part in efforts to get the burglars out of jail the day they were arrested and that he also was involved in discussions of paying hush money to the original Watergate defendants.

Mardian claimed his only involvement was his service as a lawyer representing the 1972 re-election committee in civil suits growing out of the break-in.

Mardian, after leaving the Justice Department, had been assigned the job of a campaign coordinator at the re-election committee.