

WXPPost Cover-up Defendants Separated

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica yesterday ordered separate tables for the six defendants at the Watergate cover-up trial so they can keep their distance from each other.

Sirica decreed the unusual seating arrangement for each individual team of defense attorneys in an apparent effort to keep the trial jury from mentally lumping their clients all together instead of judging them one by one.

Handing down a series of pretrial orders, the judge ordered both Watergate prosecutors and defense lawyers to give him the names of all the witnesses they plan to call by Sept. 23, a week before the conspiracy trial is now scheduled to start.

In addition, Sirica told Jaworski to come up with a legal

brief by Sept. 16 on the judge's authority to summon "court witnesses" who could be cross-examined by both sides.

Jaworski reportedly wants the court to call some witnesses whose testimony is needed but whom prosecutors may also want to subject to cross-examination.

While the judge set the pretrial deadlines, lawyers for former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman issued a subpoena for all his records and personal papers that might touch on the alleged conspiracy.

The subpoena, directed to Secret Service Director H. S. Knight, calls for Ehrlichman's

files from the June 17, 1972, discovery of the Watergate bugging at Democratic national headquarters here to May 1, 1973, the day after Ehrlichman resigned his White House post.

Ehrlichman has already subpoenaed former President Nixon to testify at the trial. The Watergate grand jury has already named Mr. Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator in the cover-up and Jaworski is considering whether he should be indicted.

The trial of six of Mr. Nixon's former aides and campaign advisers is expected to last three months. Jaworski reportedly plans to call at least 30 witnesses.

Judge Sirica gave Jaworski until Sept. 16 to supply both the court and all defense lawyers with transcripts of any subpoenaed White House tapes that the government plans to introduce at the trial.

Sirica also said he wanted the prosecutors and defense attorneys to meet at Jaworski's office on Sept. 16 to "attempt to agree" on facts that need not be contested at the trial, such as the accuracy of at least some of the government's tapes transcripts.

Finally, the judge ordered that all defendants and their lawyers be provided with office facilities at the U.S. courthouse during the trial.