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ELLSBERG ENTERS NOT GUILTY PLEA

Coast Trial Set for March 7,
but Delay Is Indicated

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 (AP) —Daniel Ellsberg pleaded not guilty today to new Federal charges stemming from the Pentagon Papers case.

His do-defendant, Anthony J. Russo, refused to enter a plea and a judge entered a not guilty plea for him.

A joint trial was set for March 7 for the former Rand Corporation colleagues, but Judge Matthew Byrne Jr. of United States District Court indicated that it would probably be postponed.

Mr. Ellsberg, who has admitted leaking the documents on the origin of the Vietnam war to news media, entered not guilty pleas on all counts of last week's new indictment against him. He is accused of stealing and distributing Department of Defense documents, and Mr. Russo is accused of receiving them. Both are also accused of conspiracy.

"Your honor, I am not guilty of the offenses charged," Mr. Ellsberg said, standing before the judge. He then answered "not guilty" in response to 12 counts of a 15-count indictment. The three other counts involve Mr. Russo.

Russo Removal Sought

Mr. Russo's attorney, Michael Balaban, said he would file motions to have his client removed from the case, claiming that a previous grant of immunity to Mr. Russo invalidates the indictment.

Mr. Russo was granted immunity by a grand jury last year if he would testify in the Ellsberg investigation. He refused and was jailed for contempt of court, but he was later purged of all contempt charges in a Federal court ruling.

The judge said the trial would probably be postponed to April 10 if Leonard Boudin, defense attorney, is still involved in the upcoming trial of the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and seven other persons in Harrisburg, Pa. The group is charged with plotting to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser. That trial is to start Jan. 10.

Also in court was former Senator Charles E. Goodell, Republican of New York, who has been acting as one of Mr. Ellsberg's attorneys. Mr. Boudin said that Mr. Goodell hoped to be a counsel in this case. The judge said he would first have to be admitted to the California bar.

The 15-count indictment, which superseded a previous one-count indictment against Mr. Ellsberg, was issued by a Federal grand jury in Los Angeles last Wednesday and made public Thursday.