

Demo Bug Criminal Trial May Be Delayed

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Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Attorney General Richard L. Kleindienst indicated yesterday that trial of the criminal as well as the civil charges in the Watergate bugging case might not be held until after the November election.

But Kleindienst said the final decision on holding the criminal trial will be made in the main upon circum-

stances over which the Justice Department has no control."

Kleindienst also told a news conference that Democratic party charges that the investigation of the Watergate incident was a coverup and a "whitewash" are "politically motivated statements" and "not in conformity with the facts."

U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey in Wash-

ington Thursday ordered three civil suits stemming from the June 17 bugging of Democratic national headquarters delayed until seven men indicted in the case, including two former White House aides, are prosecuted on separate criminal charges.

"Whether or not those persons accused of criminal charges will be tried before or after the election is a

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matter that does not rest solely with the Justice Department," Kleindienst said.

"My observation is that most people charged with a crime don't just run down to the courthouse and ask to be tried," he said. "It will depend on the trial judge's calendar and other actions."

But the Attorney General said he saw no political consequences for the Nixon Ad-

ministration if the trial is held before November.

"I think the public is completely satisfied with the Government investigation which led to the indictments," he told reporters. "I believe the public has confidence that this Administration will enforce the laws to the fullest without regard to political consequences."

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