

Watergate Judge Reads Testimony

NEW ORLEANS

Linking Mitchell, Stans to Plot

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saying some important information had been kept from the jury, Judge John J. Sirica today read the Watergate trial jurors testimony that former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary

Maurice Stans approved payments the government says went to political espionage against Democrats.

Sirica said he decided to give the jury testimony by Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer to President Nixon's re-election finance committee, after reviewing the transcripts and deciding "much of it is important evidence and the jury should hear it."

Sloan testified Tuesday, but the part about Mitchell and Stans was given while the jury was out of the room. It came out when Sirica questioned Sloan directly, but he complained today that the government should have covered the same ground when it resumed examining Sloan before the jury.

When a defense attorney objected to introducing the testimony the judge said, "I exercise my judgment as a federal judge and chief judge of the court to examine the witness."

THE JUDGE added he does not care about the possibility of an appeals court reversal and told the attorney for defendant G. Gordon Liddy: "Your client is smiling and I don't care what he thinks either."

Sirica then gave the prosecution the right to recall Sloan to the witness stand.

Liddy's lawyer, Peter Maroulis, said, "I respectfully move for a mistrial," and the judge responded, "Your motion will be denied."

In the presence of the jury, Sloan had earlier said he gave defendant Liddy, legal counsel to the finance committee, \$199,000 at the direction of Jeb Magruder, deputy director of the Nixon campaign.

After the jury left, Sirica asked Sloan if he knew what the money went for, and

Sloan replied, "I have no idea."

THE PORTION of the transcript which Sirica read to the jury contained this exchange between the judge and Sloan.

Q. You didn't question Mr. Magruder about the purpose of the \$199,000?

No, sir. I verified with Mr. Stans and Mr. Mitchell he was authorized to make those.

Q. You verified it with who?

A. Secretary Stans, the finance chairman, and I didn't directly, but he verified it with John Mitchell, the campaign chairman.

Q. This \$199,000 could be turned over to Mr. Liddy is what you are saying?

A. Not the specific amount, but Mr. Magruder, his authorization was authorization enough to turn over the funds in question.

Under Sirica's questioning, Sloan also quoted Liddy as saying to him the morning after last summer's burglary at Democratic Party headquarters:

"My boys were caught last night. I made a mistake by using somebody from here which I told them I would never do. I'm afraid I'm going to lose my job."

THIS VERSION varies from an earlier one the jury heard in the use of the word "them," implying someone higher up in the Nixon campaign have been reporting about the spy operation, including the alleged wiretapping and burglary.

Before the jury, Sloan had quoted Liddy as saying:

"... which I said I would never do."

Sirica has frequently questioned witnesses when he felt the lawyers hadn't gone far enough, but it has all been out of the hearing of the jury.

The judge said Sloan's testimony given out of the presence of the jury "has a bearing on Mr. Sloan's credibility and on other issues before the jury."

Asst. U.S. Atty. Earl J. Silbert, who protested that he would have introduced the tes-

objections, asked Sirica to let him recall Sloan to let the jury "hear it from Mr. Sloan himself" rather than hearing the transcript.

timony except for defense

But Sirica refused saying, "Mr. Sloan might have a lapse of memory. I don't know. I'd rather read it from the record," but said Sloan could be recalled later.

SLOAN ALSO SAID Tues-

day that he was worried about his role as treasurer of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President and the new campaign finance law. He said because of this he retained a lawyer before agreeing to talk to FBI investigators about the Watergate case. He also said he resigned from the Nixon campaign about a month after the Watergate incident.