

Ehrlichman Plea In Ellsberg Case

Los Angeles

John D. Ehrlichman, former top domestic adviser to President Nixon, pleaded innocent yesterday to burglary, conspiracy and perjury charges and said he would remain silent publicly about the case.

"I'm going to be following the unvarying practice of having no comment on this matter until its final disposition," Ehrlichman told a throng of reporters and cameramen.

His attorney, Joseph Ball, also declined to answer most questions, but said, "I think if this were not a politically involved matter we wouldn't be here . . . My information so far is that he's not guilty of any crime."

SURRENDER

Ehrlichman was the third of four defendants to surrender on an indictment stemming from a break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in 1971.

Former White House aide David Young surrendered earlier yesterday and pleaded innocent. Egil Krogh Jr. pleaded innocent Thursday. The fourth defendant, G. Gordon Liddy, has not yet been arraigned.

Ehrlichman smiled and appeared composed as he stood before Superior Court Judge James G. Kolts and was formally accused.

He answered "not guilty" when asked for a plea.

BOOKED

Ehrlichman was released without bail on his own recognizance, but was ordered to go immediately to the Los Angeles jail to be booked, fingerprinted and photographed.

One of his attorneys was

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DAVID YOUNG
He also pleaded innocent

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overheard objecting to the necessity for the booking procedure since Ehrlichman is so well-known. However, they did not ask the judge to waive the practice.

His trial will be set September 20.

Judge Kolts said the transcript of grand jury proceedings will remain sealed until ten days after the last defendant, Liddy, is arraigned.

BUSINESS

Ehrlichman, 48, flew here from his home in Seattle unexpectedly. He had originally said he would surrender Tuesday, but changed his mind because of "business matters" in Washington on Tuesday. *U S E P*

He received permission from the judge to be absent from pretrial court hearings at which he will be represented by his attorney.

Young, 36, once an aide to Secretary of State-designate Henry A. Kissinger, was calm as he surrendered in Judge Kolts' courtroom. He answered "Not guilty" when asked to enter a plea.

Outside the courtroom, he told a crush of reporters, "Let me just say that I have come out here voluntarily, and that means at my own expense.

" . . . I have pleaded not guilty. I am confident about that plea and about my own innocence."

"PLUMBERS"

Young and Krogh were supervisors of an undercover White House investigative unit known as "the plumbers squad" because of its assignment to plug leaks of secret information such as the Pentagon Papers.

The Beverly Hills office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding, was ransacked on Sept. 3, 1971. The break-in was linked to the "plumbers" and Watergate conspirators during the Pentagon Papers trial, and charges against Ellsberg and Anthony Russo were subsequently dismissed on grounds of government misconduct.

Associated Press

"The change in schedule, according to his attorney, Joseph Ball, was because of Mr. Ball's desire to attend the state bar meeting next week."

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