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Way Cleared for Series of Indictments Today in the Watergate Scandals

CAPITAL'S MOOD IS GRIM

Jaworski Refuses Comment on TV Report That 41 Are to Be Named

· By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

A jury of eight men and four women was selected and sequestered yesterday for the trial of John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans, clearing the way for what is expected to be a series of major indictments today in Watergate-related scandals.

The indictments have been held up pending isolation of the jurors to avoid prejudicing them in the historic trial of the former Attorney General and the former Secretary of Com-

The two former Cabinet officers in the Nixon Administration are charged with conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury in an alleged scheme to quash a Federal investigation of Robert L. Vesco, the fugitive financier, in exchange for a secret \$200,000 contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Mood in the Capital

In Washington, the special Watergate prosecutor, Jaworski, declined to comment yesterday on a report by C.B.S. News that a total of 41 defendants and co-conspirators would be named in the indictments.

As speculation in the capital mounted, one former White House aide said the mood was "like walking through a mine field."

The C.B.S. report said that while none of the Watergate grand juries would indict Mr. Nixon, "a strong statement dealing with the President involvement in Watergate" will be presented to Federal District Judge John J. Sirica.

The coming indictments are certain to focus on the June 17,

1972, break-in at the Democratic National headquarters in its office and apartment complex, who ordered the abortive burglary, and who knew about it and sought to cover it up afterward.

In addition, indictments are expected to deal with other areas that—political sabotage, Continued on Page 13, Column 2

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illegal election campaign conas the "plumbers" and alleged influence peddling involving the White House and the International Telephone and Telegraph

Corporation.
Some of those already indicted for aspects of the Water gate affair may be indicted again for other alleged crimes. So far, a total of 31 individuals have gone to court in one capacity or another in the sweeping case.

Mr. Jaworski said in an interview this week that he believed his ofice now knew the whole story of the Watergate scandal and was set to proceed with the indictments.

The jury selected to decide the guilt or innocence of Mr. Mitchell, once the nation's chief naw-enforcement official, and Mr. Stans, financial master-mind of the President's 1968 and 1972 campaigns, represented a broad range of Amer-

icans.

Of the eight men, two are blacks and one is Latin American. One of the men and one of the women are single the rest are married and have children. There is a Western Union messenger, a janitor, a subway conductor, a retirce, a highway engineer and a juror whose engineer and a juror whose husband was sentenced for a crime 18 years ago.

The ages ranged from just over 20 to the 60's.

Six alternate jurors were also selected to be available in case any of the 12 fall ill or are forced to drop out for other reasons. reasons.

Of the six alternates, five are men. The six included an over-seas investment banker, a diseas investment banker, a di-vorced secretary and a land-

scape gardener.

As soon as the panel was selected, capping a tedious cight days of private interrogation by the judge and challenges in open court yesterday, the jurors and the alternates were led off by a cadre of United States marshals who will keep them sequestered for the duration of the trial, which may last five or six weeks.

First the jurors were taken to lunch at an undisclosed restaurant, then they were escorted to their homes to pick up their personal belongings.

up their personal belongings. Afterwards, they were taken to dinner and installed in an un-

disclosed hotel.

In stressing the hardships of the sequestration, Judge Lee P. Gagliardi of Federal District



Sybil Kucharski, foreman, in June, 1971.

Court indicated that they would not be permitted to meet with their families until the end of

their families until the end of the trial.

After the jury left, Government and defense attorneys parried as one of Mr. Stans's lawyers, John Facciola, argued a motion before Judge Gagliardi seeking to dismiss the allegation that Mr. Vesco's \$200,000 contribution had been inegally accepted. accepted.

Mr. Facciola argued that under a 1925 law, Mr. Vesco's "promise" to contribute the money before a campaign reporting law went into effect April 7, 1972, actually constituted the contribution, even though the money may not have been physically handed over until several days later.