

Mitchell's Poll on Trial

Washington

Former Attorney General John Mitchell yesterday released results of a privately financed public opinion survey that he claimed showed conclusively he cannot get a fair trial as a Watergate coverup defendant in Washington.

Mitchell and six other men, including former top presidential aides John Ehrlichman, H. R. Haldeman and Charles Colson, are defendants in the coverup case.

Yesterday the defendants submitted dozens of motions aimed either at preventing the trial from happening at

all or changing its character in some way.

Several sought to have the charges thrown out, while others urged that the trial be set in some city other than Washington if it had to go forward. Still others asked the U.S. District Court to conduct separate trials for the various defendants rather than lumping them all together.

Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski must respond to the defense motions by June 15. The case is scheduled to go to trial September 9.

The most eye-catching was Mitchell's request for

trial in some other city, backed as it was by an affidavit from a professional poll taker, Albert Sindlinger.

Of those who had heard about the coverup charges involving a number of President Nixon's former aides and had an opinion, Sindlinger said, 75 per cent in the nationwide sample personally considered the defendants guilty and seven per cent thought them innocent.

In the District of Columbia, he said, the comparative figures were 84 per cent and two per cent.

—Reuters