

Decision Delayed on Ehrlichman Trial

Washington

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell yesterday postponed for 24 hours a decision on whether John D. Ehrlichman, President Nixon's former No. 2 aide, will go on trial next week in the Ellsberg break-in case.

There were indications that Gesell will order Ehrlichman to trial as scheduled.

Gesell announced he was discussing jury selection, with Ehrlichman's lawyers present, and one of them, William S. Frates, disclosed he was canceling a scheduled week's vacation.

Ehrlichman, as head of the old White House "plumbers" special investigative unit,

had been scheduled to go on trial Monday with three others in connection with the 1971 burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

But Gesell said Tuesday he would sever Ehrlichman's case from the others because of White House refusal to produce subpoenaed documents that Ehrlichman deemed vital to his defense.

Then, on Wednesday, citing "substantial" changes in the White House position, Gesell said that severance may not be necessary.

The judge met for almost two hours with lawyers for Ehrlichman and the White House in his chambers yesterday.

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