Judge Orders Ehrlichman 1974 To Stand Trial on June 26

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

ecial to The New York Times

that the White House had fully retreat by the judge and a subment to provide documents in the "plumbers" case and set June 26 for the start of the Initially, Judge Gesell threat-

full access to his personal notes, which covered more than two years of Presidential and ruled that the additional notes ther meetings. being sought were not relevant to the defense of Mr. Ehrlichman, the former chief domestic Continued on Page 14, Column 5 adviser to President Nixon.

Mr. Ehrlichman, occasionally smiling and seemingly at ease. later told newsmen that he was disappointed but added, "We're going to have a trial, as I think we've always expected we would and we're confident of the outcome."

In another Federal court here, papers filed today by Leon Jaworski, the special prosecutor, asserted that Mr. Nixon had sought in vain to have that f court erase from the record a grand jury's naming of him as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate cover-up. [Details on Page 15.]

In essence, the ruling today ended a three-week debate between the President and the

WASHINGTON, JUNE 14-|court over executive privilege Federal District Judge Gerhard and Mr. Ehrlichman's rights A. Gesell formally ruled today that culminated in a significant "satisfied" its legal require-sequent delay in the trial,

trial of John D. Ehrlichman ened to dismiss the case or hold Initially, Judge Gesell threatand three other defendants.

The judge rejected a last-minute effort by Mr. Ehrlichman and his attorneys to gain and his attorneys to gain the personal rect access to the personal

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abruptly severed Mr. Ehrlichman's case from that of the other defendants in the alleged other defendants in the alleged get diverted" from the criminal issue in the case, he said. trial because of the President's refusal to waive a claim of executive privilege to limit access cision that considerations of to the files. Many lawyers prinational security could not be

showing some signs of irritation fically authorize the September,

unjustified.

On the next day, the judge, showing some signs of irritation with the press, reversed himself after J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., the white House counsel, assured the court that he had personally reviewed the Ehrlichman notes and found nothing in them bearing on the trial.

Thoroughness Questioned

At a closed hearing yesterday, Mr. Ehrlichman and his attorneys challenged the thoroughness of that search. The judge delayed setting a trial date and ordered Mr. Ehrlichman and his attorneys from direct access to the files.

A list of 49 sets of notes was submitted to the judge today by James D. St. Clair, the President's Watergate attorney. They covered such events as Presidential meetings in June, 1971, on economic policy, narcotics programs; future relations with the New York Times, and the murder in 1963 of Ngo Dinh Dien, President of South Vietnam.

The judge scanned Mr. St. Clair's list and then summarily ruled the subjects irrelevant to the criminal charges facing Mr. Ehrlichman.

"I certainly do not want to hear arguments on the nature of economic policy questions that were discussed at one of these meetings with Shultz, the judge declared. "It's an imposition on the court's time." The reference was to George P. Shultz, who held several economic posts in the Administration.

When William C. Frates, Mr. Ehrlichman's chief attorney, protested the ruling, Judge Gesell pointedly said that he did not want to accept as evi-

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3 dence "masses and masses" of irrelevant documents "that have nothing to do with this case."

"I'm not going to let the jury

The ruling today, coupled with Judge Gesell's earlier devately criticized the judge's action as excessive and legally unjustified.

On the part day the judge argument, which he has made On the next day, the judge, before, that he did not speci-