

Haldeman Asks Trial Delay

Washington

Claiming the public mind has been so poisoned against him that no jury would now find him innocent of Watergate crimes, H.R. Haldeman asked yesterday that the coverup trial in which he is a defendant be delayed indefinitely.

Haldeman, one-time chief of staff to former President Nixon, said any prospective juror who could honestly say he knows nothing about Watergate or had formed no opinions in the case would be "so oblivious to national affairs" he would not be smart enough to

serve on the jury.

He thus became the third major defendant to ask for a postponement of the coverup trial, due to start September 9, because of "unprecedented publicity" surrounding Mr. Nixon's departure from office last Friday.

Two of the six defendants, John D. Erlichman and John N. Mitchell, already have asked for a delay in the trial and a hearing is set for Monday before U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

A fourth defendant, former Nixon campaign lawyer Kenneth W. Parkinson, filed

papers yesterday opposing any delay. He asked instead that he be given a separate trial and that it be moved away from Washington.

Parkinson's lawyers said he has only a "peripheral attachment" to his co-defendants, "all of whom are politicians" rather than practicing lawyers as he is, and four of whom he does not even know.

The trial of the "Watergate six"—who also include Robert C. Mardian and Gordon Strachan — is expected to last at least three months.

A.P. & U.P.