

# 45 Potential Coverup Jurors

## Washington

A panel of 45 potential jurors was formed yesterday in the Watergate coverup trial, leaving just one more step necessary for final jury selection.

A spokesman for U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said attorneys for both sides will exercise peremptory challenges in open court today.

Sirica has allotted the two sides a total of 27 peremptory challenges. That process, elimination of jurors without any cause being cited, is expected to be completed in the morning.

Once 12 jurors and six alternates are chosen, opening arguments in the trial of five former Nixon administration and campaign officials can begin.

Todd Christofferson, Sirica's law clerk, told newsmen that the judge plans to ask the 45 "a few more questions" before moving into open session and the peremptory challenges.

He held open the possibility of a slight further delay in the event any of the 45 are disqualified on the basis of their answers to the few remaining questions. Sirica plans to question them as a group, not individually.

Meanwhile, Herbert W. Kalmbach, former personal attorney and political fundraiser for Richard M. Nixon, asked Sirica for a reduction in his sentence to insure his release after serving six months.

Kalmbach, 52, pleaded guilty to two violations of federal campaign contribution laws and began serving a six-to-18-month sentence last July 1.

*Associated Press*