

John D. Ehrlichman signing autographs during luncheon recess at Watergate trial

Autograph Collector Gets 'Big 3' at Watergate Trial

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—
Dozens of people have been coming to the Watergate cover-up trial each day in hopes of hearing the White House tape recordings or of seeing John W. Dean 3d, the chief prosecution witness.

There are only 30 or so seets There are only 30 or so seats for the public, so the people stand or sit in a long line in the hallway outside Judge John J. Sirica's courtroom, waiting, reading, talking.

And getting autographs.

Today, at the midmorning recess, John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General who is one of five defendants in the case, left the court on his way to the set of defense offices down the hall. A young man rushed from his spot on the line to stop Mr. Mitchell.

The man, a student at American University named Craig Horne, thrust forward a copy of "All the President's Men"—the book written by the two Washington Post reporters who helped break open the Watergate scandal, Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward—and opened to a page ward-and opened to a page bearing Mr. Mitchell's photograph.

Mitchell, who was Mr. known for his antipathy to

long-haired, blue-jeaned college youths, smiled at Mr. Horne. He signed the photograph; then, still smiling, he walked away.

"I've got the big three," Mr. Horne said, showing off his autographs from Mr. Mitchell and two other defendants, H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, and John D. Ehrthe former White House chief of staff, and John D. Ehrlichman, the former White House chief adviser on domestic affairs, all on the photographs in the book.

Did that mean that Mr. Horne was sympathetic to the defendants? He paused a moment, then shook his head, saying, "Not really."