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**Nixon Parting Described** DEC 11 1974

# Ehrlichman Weeps at His

Washington

John D. Ehrlichman broke down and cried at the Watergate coverup trial yesterday as he described a farewell meeting at Camp David with Richard M. Nixon.

Ehrlichman told how he was summoned to Camp David by Mr. Nixon, who asked for his resignation from the White House staff. Ehrlichman's resignation was announced the next day, April 30, 1973.

Ehrlichman said Mr. Nixon offered to help him with attorneys' fees that stem from Watergate.

When Ehrlichman declined the offer of financial help he said Mr. Nixon asked if there was anything else he might do.

"I said some day I would like him to explain to our children . . ." then he sobbed and stopped.

Ehrlichman removed his glasses and began to cry openly.

"Would you like to take a little recess?" asked U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, who then interrupted the trial for ten minutes.

In describing the events of April 29, 1973, the day that Mr. Nixon told him that he would have to resign because of the Watergate mat-

ter, Ehrlichman said he met Mr. Nixon in the presidential lodge at Camp David.

"He said in substance that this was a very painful conversation for him," Ehrlichman recounted. "He was obviously very emotionally

upset."

"How could you tell?" his attorney asked. Ehrlichman paused, then sounding reluctant, replied, "He broke down at one point and cried. He said he regretted very much having to take this step."

"He said I had been his conscience. I replied I hadn't been as effective as I'd like.

"He said on reflection my judgment had been correct."

Ehrlichman's wife, Jean, who was in the courtroom,



AP Wirephoto

ABC artist Freda Reiter's sketch of John Ehrlichman in tears, with attorney William Frates (left) and Judge Sirica looking on.

# Trial

bowed her head and dabbed at her eyes.

After the recess Ehrlichman's lawyer shifted to another subject but Ehrlichman interrupted him saying, "May I try to finish that answer? It's important to me.

"I said he could explain to our children why he was asking me to leave and that basically was the end of the meeting."

The next day, Mr. Nixon announced he had accepted, with regret, the resignations of H.R. Haldeman and Ehrlichman.

Mr. Nixon also announced the resignation of Attorney General Richard G. Kleindeinst and the firing of White House counsel John W. Dean III.

Earlier yesterday Ehrlichman said Mr. Nixon had misled him about whether he would consider granting a clemency to the Watergate burglars.

Ehrlichman, testified that during a walk along the beach at San Clemente on July 8, 1972, Mr. Nixon said he "would never entertain a conversation" on clemency for the men arrested June 17, inside Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Ehrlichman said he didn't learn until recently that six months later, Mr. Nixon and Charles W. Colson, then White House special counsel discussed clemency.

William S. Frates, Ehrlichman's lawyer, then asked, "were you aware after listening to the White House tapes that the President was telling you one thing about clemency and Mr. Colson something else?"

"Well, if you compare what he told me in July and what's on the tapes, it's very different, yes," replied Ehrlichman.

The only other time Ehrlichman said he was aware that the subject of clemency came up was in April, 1973, when Mr. Nixon suggested that at the end of his second term as president he would grant pardons to all those involved in Watergate.

"And I said amen," Ehrlichman testified. He emphasized that the pardons would not be offered in return for the silence of the break-in defendants.

During the discussions in midsummer 1972, Ehrlichman said he proposed a program of full disclosure about Watergate.

Out of those discussions, he said, came Mr. Nixon's statement on Aug. 29, 1972, that no one on the White House staff was involved in Watergate.

*Associated Press*