

Ehrlichman Blames Nixon

Washington

John D. Ehrlichman testified yesterday that "in at least four major instances" he was deceived through false impressions given him by former President Nixon.

"I feel there is ample showing on the record that I was deceived," said Ehrlichman, who served as Mr. Nixon's top domestic adviser.

Ehrlichman insisted that "time after time" he advocated full disclosure of what was known about the Watergate breakin and aftermath and added:

"The fact is as I look back and I add it all up I knew pitifully little about the matter ..."

Ehrlichman's statement came near the end of a long day of heated cross-examination at the Watergate coverup trial.

Prosecutor James S. Neal, who shot question after question at Ehrlichman, reminded him that his lawyer had said Mr. Nixon "deceived, misled, and lied to you."

Neal continued: "You are saying that you were only a silent listener, that's basically your testimony, isn't it, Mr. Ehrlichman?"

Ehrlichman replied:

"When I listened to the tapes it was clear to me that in at least four major instances the impressions given to me by the former President were false."

Earlier, Ehrlichman admitted that he didn't tell all he knew about Watergate to the FBI, the grand jury or even his colleagues in the Nixon administration.

Ehrlichman's cross-examination brought the sharpest clash yet at the trial.

Ehrlichman's lawyer, William S. Frates, accused Neal of grandstanding before audience and press because he wanted to run for political office in his native Tennessee. Neal called the remarks "despicable."

Frates replied that Neal had made despicable statements and complained about

"the cheap shots he has taken throughout this trial."

In the instances of false impressions from Mr. Nixon, Ehrlichman cited a June 23, 1972, meeting at which Mr. Nixon and H. R. Haldeman discussed diverting the FBI investigation and a March, 1973, meeting when White House counsel John W. Dean III told Mr. Nixon about a "cancer on the presidency." Ehrlichman said that Mr. Nixon got "impressions from Mr. Dean that he did not impart to me."

Ehrlichman also cited a Jan. 8, 1973, talk with Mr. Nixon in which Mr. Nixon said he would never discuss clemency with anyone. This, Ehrlichman said, was opposite to what Mr. Nixon later told him.

In a fourth instance, Ehrlichman said that at a March 22, 1973, meeting with Mr. Nixon, John Mitchell and Haldeman he thought full disclosure had been agreed on. But, he said, "what I thought we had agreed on in principle ... in fact was opposite."

^{10 DEC}
Ehrlichman admitted that he had made an erroneous statement Tuesday when he testified he didn't know anything about "hocus pocus" involved in Herbert Kalmbach's money-raising efforts for the original Watergate defendants.

Yesterday, he admitted knowing of one such instance, a time when E. Howard Hunt's lawyer received \$25,000 that had been left at a telephone booth in a building. (SEE ENTRY 7 JUL 72)

But Ehrlichman insisted that he thought that Kalmbach's activities were a legitimate fund-raising effort like that conducted for Angela Davis. Ehrlichman said that he himself had a defense fund.

"Have you received any money drops in a phone booth, Mr. Ehrlichman?" Neal asked. "Have you received any money on ledgers at Howard Johnson's or in a mailbox in the dark of night?"

Ehrlichman said no.

Associated Press