

The People 'Involved' in Watergate

Washington

Kenneth W. Parkinson described at the Watergate coverup trial yesterday how Jeb S. Magruder told him "we're all involved" in the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Parkinson is the last of the five defendants to present his defense at the trial, now in its 12th week.

Parkinson testified that on July 13, 1972, in connection with his role as attorney for Richard M. Nixon's re-election committee, he interviewed Magruder who said to him, "Ken, you are the lawyer, you tell me what to say."

Parkinson said Magruder, then deputy director of the Nixon re-election committee, asked, "What is the scenario?"

Parkinson said he replied, "Jeb, I understand you are a public relations man. Maybe, you deal in scenarios. I am a lawyer. I deal in facts."

"He then told me, 'we're all involved.' I said, 'what's that?'"

"He said, 'we're all involved. Mr. Mitchell is involved, he authorized it . . .'" John N. Mitchell, former attorney general, headed Mr. Nixon's 1972 campaign.

Parkinson, testifying in his own defense, was asked whether he believed Magruder.

"I was in a state of some confusion," he replied. "I had just come from the office of the former attorney general of the United States and he had told me he had nothing to do with the break-in."

Parkinson said he told Nixon campaign aide Fred C. LaRue what Magruder had told him and that LaRue replied, "Ken, I can tell you Magruder isn't telling the truth, that just isn't true. . . he's attempting to involve as many other people as he can in his own problems."

Parkinson said he then went to see Mitchell, who also denied Magruder's story. Jacob Stein, Parkinson's lawyer, asked Parkinson whether he believed that Mitchell was involved in the break-in.

"No, sir," replied Parkinson.

"Why?" Stein asked.

"I believed him," said Parkinson.

"Why?" asked Stein.

"Mr. Stein, he at that time was at the very pinnacle of the legal profession," Parkinson said "He was a former attorney general. I was impressed with the opportunity to see him. I just had confidence in him."

Chief prosecutor James F. Neal said the prosecution expects to finish by tomorrow, leaving only final arguments before the case goes to the jury.

Mardian concluded his defense case yesterday by calling ten character witnesses, including Senators Barry Goldwater and Paul Fannin, Arizona Republicans; Chief Justice Donald R. Wright of the California Supreme Court; Chief Justice Jack D. A. Hayes of Arizona Supreme Court; Irv Noren, a former major league baseball player, and James Farmer, founder and former president of the Congress of Racial Equality.