

# Watergate Jury Ends Its Ordeal

Washington

The decision was tucked inside a large brown envelope as the 12 jurors walked into Judge John J. Sirica's courtroom yesterday afternoon.

But traces of that decision — four men guilty and one not guilty in the historic Watergate coverup case — were on their solemn faces, too.

The jury foreman, John A. Hoffar, 57, ashen-faced on ordinary days, carried the envelope and gave it to a court clerk.

As he sat he looked particularly pale.

Those who have watched him in the three months of the trial, noted only one small difference: he seemed to rock a bit in his chair and it seemed, for an instant, that he might smile and break the mood along the two rows of faces.

The court clerk, James Capitano, began to read the contents of the envelope and

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the word "guilty" was snapped off 14 times and "not guilty" only twice.

And then the jurors were thanked by the judge, requested — but not ordered — not to discuss what had gone on in the jury room and dismissed.

Accompanied by U.S. marshals, the jurors went by chartered bus back to the Sheraton-Park Hotel where they have stayed for the past three weeks, ran a gauntlet of reporters and cameramen and said nothing.

Once again, only Hoffar gave any sign, and that was to indicate, with a shake of his head and a palms-up gesture that there was nothing he could do or say.

They canceled their evening dinner and the mar-

shals said they would be escorted home.

Since October 11 the nine women and three men had lived the oddly divided life of watching one of the nation's major trials during the day, then retreating each night into a tightly guarded hotel, shut off from their normal world.

And when their verdicts were finally given, they still were cautioned by Sirica to keep silent.

"There very well may be many people who would like to hear your views on the case. I urge you strongly and advise you not to speak to anyone," the judge said, saying that his advice concerned discussions held inside the jury room.

"Of course," he added, "I cannot keep you from talking."

Besides Hoffar the jurors were Sandra V. Young, 28, a pharmacists' assistant; Dock Reid, 60, a hotel doorman; Ruth C. Gould, 57, a loan specialist with the Department of Agriculture; Vanetta N. Metoyer, 49, a waitress in a dime store lunch counter; Marjorie M. Milbourn, 55, a retired international relations officer for the Agency of International Development; Jane N. Ryon, 63, a retired Justice Department secretary; Roy V. Carter, 27, chief supply clerk for George Washington University; Anita E. King, 57, a matron with the Washington city schools; Thelma L. Wells, 68, a widow; Helen D. Pratt, 63, a retired embassy maid, and Gladys E. Carter 40, an office machine operator at a Washington hospital.

They originally were taken each night to the mid-Town Motor Inn, where an entire floor of \$22-a-day rooms had been blocked off for them.

Then three weeks ago they were moved to the seventh floor of the Sheraton-Park, where a wing with about 14 rooms and a suite for meetings was set aside.

The foreman, Hoffar, is a retired National Park Service police supervisor.

It was Hoffar who complained to Sirica that the jurors felt rushed when Sirica pressed to have them begin deliberations the weekend

after Christmas. At least once before, the independent-minded jury objected to attempts by Sirica to speed the trial by holding court on weekends.

Penciled notes from Hoffar kept the judge informed of the jury's schedule, even setting out their planned hours of deliberation a day in advance.

A tipoff that a verdict was near on Wednesday came when Hoffar informed Sirica that the jury would deliberate an hour longer instead of breaking for lunch as usual at 12:30 p.m.

Racially the jurors broke down into four whites and eight blacks. They were chosen from voter registration lists in a city 70 per cent black.

Defense and prosecution lawyers expressed surprise that Hoffar, 57, the only white male on the panel was chosen its foreman.

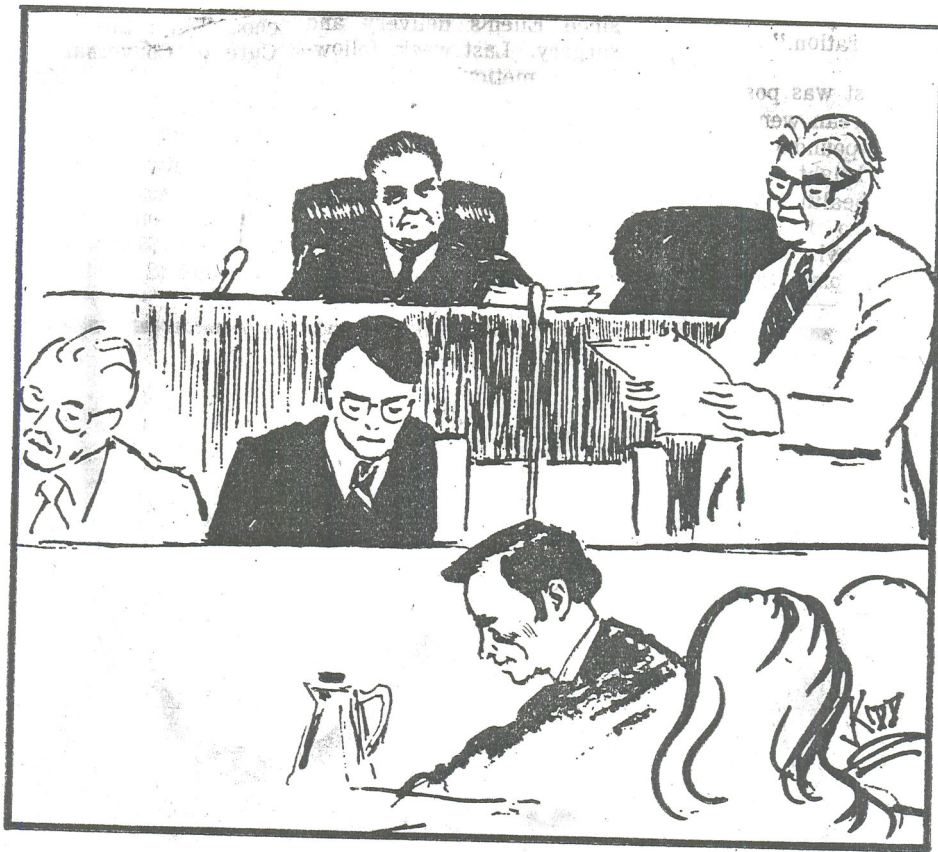
While the jurors deliberated Sirica ordered spartan living conditions, denying them the two alcoholic drinks previously permitted before meals.

Television, newspaper, radio and telephone privileges were suspended.

Only four of the jurors stayed up long enough Tuesday night to celebrate the New Year quietly in a small lounge on the hotel floor where they have been housed.

Two of the jurors, Hoffar and Mrs. Wells, are registered Republicans. Mrs. Wells, thrice widowed, is reportedly a devoted believer in astrology.

New York Times



AP Wirephoto

Courtroom drawing of clerk James Capitanio (right) reading the verdict