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## Parkinson: Lawsuit Counsel

Kenneth Wells Parkinson, a Washington lawyer, came late into the Watergate affair as an attorney for the Nixon reelection committee.

His mission was to help defend the committee against a civil suit filed by the Democrats. He emerged under indictment for conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

On the stand, Parkinson pictured himself as an innocent courier who merely delivered messages he did not understand. Prosecutors said he passed a list of money demands from the Watergate burglars to White House counsel John W. Dean III.

However, Parkinson acknowledged putting into a paper shredder notes of a conversation in which Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy director of the committee had talked about the burglary and implicated people in the White House and in the upper echelons of the campaign committee.

"Looking back on it, it was a very serious mistake in judgment on my part," Parkinson said.

Parkinson also said he relayed messages to and from William O. Bittman, lawyer for the Watergate spy E. Howard Hunt. But he said he never knew the contents of the messages.

A Washington native, Parkinson once was a law clerk in the courthouse where he has been standing trial. He has held offices in the D.C. Board of Trade, the Legal Aid Society, and the D.C. Bar Association.