

Haldeman Hints Jury Violated Order

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (AP)—Attorneys for H. R. Haldeman asked United States District Judge John J. Sirica today for a hearing on whether some of the Watergate cover-up trial jurors violated his order not to watch television or read newspapers during their deliberations.

Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, was one of four men convicted Wednesday of conspiring to obstruct justice in the Watergate break-in.

The Haldeman attorneys, John J. Wilson and Frank Stricler, cited a newspaper's interview with one of the jurors, Ruth Gould. The article, in yesterday's Washington Star-News, said:

"Mrs. Gould said there was little discussion of Nixon's pardon after Sirica's warning that the pardon was not to be considered in their deliberations.

"The judge, she said, wielded complete control over the jury's actions, though she hinted there were some jurors who

disregarded his instructions not to watch television or read newspapers during the brief periods they were not actually under surveillance."

Reached in New York where she was visiting a son, Mrs. Gould said she was "just furious" about the newspaper article.

"I just think I never said anything like that, I didn't indicate anything like that and it wasn't true," she said.

Asked if there was any television viewing or newspaper reading on days when the jury was deliberating, Mrs. Gould replied: "No, of course there wasn't."

In the testimony phase, she said, "every time we watched television the U. S. marshal was right there and snapped it off" when news accounts of Watergate came on.

The motion asked for a new trial and said that to check the accuracy of the article it would be necessary to subpoena at

least Mrs. Gould and the Star-News reporter, Walter Taylor.

The lawyers asked Judge Sirica for permission to issue the subpoenas for the court itself to issue them for a hearing in open court.

The judge imposed stringent regulations on the jury after his final instructions last Monday, ordering marshals to cut them off from all newspapers, radio and television. In the 2½ months the jury was sequestered, newspaper reading and television watching was permitted but only after all references to Watergate were screened out.

Mr. Haldeman was the first defendant to ask for a new trial, although such motions are routine and were expected from the three other men, John N. Mitchell, John D. Ehrlichman and Robert C. Mardian.

All four are free without bond as the judge awaits a probation office report before setting a date for sentencing.