

# Prison for the Watergate Four?

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**PUBLIC OPINION** is closely divided on whether pardons should be granted John Mitchell, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, and Robert Mardian, each of whom was found guilty in the recent Watergate cover-up trial.

In the latest nationwide survey, 43 per cent think these men should be pardoned, while 44 per cent express opposition to such a course of action. Another 13 per cent qualify their views or do not express an opinion.

A substantial majority of persons interviewed (73 per cent) think the defendants received a fair trial. In addition, almost the same percentage (70 per cent) agree with the guilty verdicts given the four defendants.

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**SINCE** it appears unlikely at this time that the defendants will receive pardons. All survey respondents were asked what sentence they think should be imposed upon those men.

About a third of all persons interviewed favor a jail sentence (34 per cent), while 30 per cent think they should receive a fine only. Fifteen per cent would impose both a jail sentence and a fine. Another four per cent say they should receive neither a jail sentence nor a fine. About one in six (17 per cent) does not express an opinion or qualifies his response.

The four defendants of the five in the Watergate cover-up trial were found guilty for their actions in trying to obstruct the investigation of the break-in at Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate complex during the election of 1972.

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**AFTER** deliberating for a period of three days, the jury found:

● — Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman each guilty of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and three counts of perjury.

● — Former White House domestic affairs adviser John D. Ehrlichman guilty of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and two counts of perjury.

● — Former assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian guilty of conspiracy.

● — The fifth defendant, Kenneth W. Parkinson, not guilty. Parkinson was hired by the Nixon Reelection Committee after the break-in.

The defendants remain free on personal bond until they are sentenced by Federal Judge John Sirica. The laws they violated carry total maximum penalties that, theoretically, could mean imprisonment for as long as 25 years, in the cases of Haldeman and Mitchell.