

# Court Drops Ehrlichman Perjury Count

LOS ANGELES, March 3 (UPI)—A superior court judge today quickly dismissed a perjury indictment against John D. Ehrlichman, already under federal sentence for his part in the Watergate cover-up.

In a hearing that lasted less than three minutes, Judge Gordon Ringer dismissed the charges after Assistant District Attorney Stephen Trott said further prosecution would be "an excess of our obligations."

Ehrlichman was not in court. He was represented by attorney Douglas Dalton.

The perjury charge stemmed from Ehrlichman's testimony before a grand jury about his knowledge of the break-in of Dr. Lewis Fielding's office in Beverly Hills during the Pentagon Papers trial. Fielding was Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Trott said Ehrlichman had been tried and convicted in a federal court on similar charges and had been given a sentence which the district attorney's office considered appropriate.

Ehrlichman was sentenced to 2½ to 8 years in prison. The conviction is being appealed.

Trott said any sentence on a conviction of the local charge would run concurrently with the federal sentence and would entail a long and expensive trial.