

# Watergate Prober To Join Law Firm

By Steve Green

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Former Assistant U.S. Attorney General Henry E. Petersen, who supervised the original Watergate prosecution, is joining the Washington law firm of William G. Hundley, who once was his boss at the Justice Department.

Hundley, whose clients include convicted Watergate conspirator John N. Mitchell, said yesterday that Petersen will join his firm of Hundley and Cacheris after Jan. 1.

Petersen retired from the Justice Department Dec. 31. As head of the department's criminal division, he supervised the Watergate investigation until the Special Prosecution Force was created in June, 1973.

Petersen, who spent 27 years in the Justice Department, ran into criticism when White House tape transcripts revealed he had passed Watergate grand jury reports to President Nixon.

Petersen defended his conduct and told the Senate Watergate Committee that the original prosecutors were "on the verge of breaking the case wide open" when Archibald Cox was named special prosecutor.

Hundley left the Justice Department in 1966. At that time he was chief of the organized crime section and Petersen was his deputy.

Petersen, 54, could not be reached for comment. When announcing his retirement, he said he would "weigh . . . offers to practice law."

In the original Watergate trial, there were seven defendants, including five men arrested by police in Democratic

headquarters at the Watergate. All pleaded guilty or were convicted. However, the original trial left unresolved questions about the involvement of others, and Judge John J. Sirica criticized the prosecution for failing to ask more questions.

As the probe continued, evidence of the scandal widened and eventually forced President Nixon to resign.

Petersen was responsible for the work of three assistant U.S. attorneys for the District of Columbia who were the original Watergate prosecutors.

One of the three, Seymour Glanzer, resigned last year to join the D.C. law firm of Dickstein, Shapiro and Morin, which defended former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and former White House Special Counsel Charles W. Colson. Colson was a partner in the firm after leaving the White House.

The two others are Earl Silbert, now acting U.S. attorney for the District, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Donald Campbell.