

Sirica Denies Haldeman A New Trial

Washington

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica yesterday denied a new trial for former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman.

It was Sirica's first Watergate ruling since he was felled by a heart attack February 5.

Haldeman had asked for a new trial and an evidentiary hearing in his Watergate coverup conviction on grounds that there was unauthorized contact with the jury by a third party — the wife of a U.S. marshal.

His petition said supervising Marshal Ellis Duley took his wife along when the jury went for dinner and entertainment to the officers club at Andrews Air Force Base. Haldeman asked that she be called to testify on whether she talked with any of the jurors. The jurors were sequestered and were not permitted to speak to anyone except other jurors.

"The court finds this incident was not prejudicial to the defendant," the judge said.

Haldeman was convicted along with John Ehrlichman and John Mitchell and Robert Mardian of conspiring to cover up the Watergate scandal.

Associated Press
