



Watergate grand jury indicts 7



H. R. HALDEMAN



JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN

Ehrlichman, Mitchell, Haldeman at top of list

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal grand jury today indicted H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, once President Nixon's top aides, former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell and four other men on charges of conspiring to block Watergate investigations.

The massive Watergate indictment also brought charges against: —Robert C. Mardian, once a White House special counsel. —Charles W. Colson, once a White House assistant general and later as a 1972 campaign aide. —Gordon C. Strachan, a former presidential assistant, and —Kenneth W. Parkinson, an attorney for Nixon's campaign finance committee.

All told, the grand jury returned more than a score of charges against the seven men. In addition, it delivered a sealed Watergate report to U.S. Dist. Court Judge John J. Sirica. There have been reports that such a secret document might cover grand jury findings involving the President.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Nixon is confident all Americans will join him in recognizing that his former White House aides who were indicted today "are presumed innocent unless guilty is established in the courts," a spokesman said.

"The President has always maintained that the judicial system is the proper forum for the resolution of the questions concerning Watergate," Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said in a statement.

The indictments indicate that the judicial process is finally moving toward resolution of the matter. "Warren said, adding, "It is the President's hope the trials will move to a just conclusion."

"The President is confident all Americans will join him in recognizing that those indicted are presumed innocent unless proof of guilt is established in the courts," Warren said.

The indictment climaxed a 20-month investigation, but Sirica said the grand jury's work may not be done.

As he received the indictment, the sealed report, and two black suitcases containing Watergate evidence, the judge told the grand jury that it might be called to return to its secret proceedings in two weeks.

The charges were: —Ehrlichman, one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice; one count of lying to FBI agents and two counts of lying to the grand jury or the court; —Haldeman, one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice and three counts of perjury.

Mitchell, one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice, two counts of lying to a grand jury or court, one count of perjury and one count of lying to FBI agents; —Colson, Mardian and Parkinson, one count each of conspiracy to obstruct justice; —Strachan, one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice and one count of lying to a grand jury or court.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and fines ranging from \$2,000 for perjury to \$10,000 for lying to a grand jury or court.

Sirica scheduled arraignments for March 9, a Saturday, when Mitchell's trial in New York on separate charges stemming from a contribution to President Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign would not be in session.

The conspiracy count against the seven defendants charged that "it was a part of the conspiracy that the conspirators would corruptly influence, obstruct and impede, the due administration of justice."

Among the means the indictment alleged were used to carry out the conspiracy were to "remove, conceal alter and destroy ... documents, papers, records and objects."

"The conspirators would plan, solicit, assist and facilitate the giving of false, deceptive, evasive and misleading statements and testimony."

"The conspirators would covertly raise, acquire, transmit, distribute and pay cash funds to and for the benefit of the (seven original Watergate) defendants."

"The conspirators would make and cause to be made offers of leniency, executive clemency and other benefits to E. Howard Hunt Jr., G. Gordon Liddy, James W. McCord Jr., and Jeb Magruder."

"The conspirators would attempt to obtain CIA financial assistance for persons who are subjects of the investigation."

The indictment alleged Mitchell lied when he said: —That he had no knowledge of the break-in other than what he had read in the newspapers; —That he would have shut off any program for illegal surveillance of Democratic candidates; —That he could not remember either Frederick C. LaRue or Mardian telling him that Liddy had told them of his role in the break-in; —That on June 19, 1972, he had never heard of the Gemstone file, the logs of the wiretaps planted at Democratic headquarters.

The indictment alleged that Ehrlichman lied when he said: —That he knew nothing about the break-in other than what he had read in the newspapers; —That during the first week after the Watergate break-in he never discussed Liddy's role in Watergate in discussions with Dean and that he couldn't recall when he learned of Liddy's involvement; —That he could not recall giving former presidential lawyer Herbert W. Kalmbach his approval to raise funds secretly for the original Watergate defendants.

Strachan was charged with lying to the grand jury when he said that after the 1972 election he took \$55,000 in cash from Haldeman's White House safe on his own initiative and delivered it to LaRue.

Strachan said the money, received on April 3, 1972 stayed untouched in the safe until he took it to LaRue.

Sirica issued an order directing all persons connected with the case to talk to no one about it.

On Sept. 14, 1972, the grand jury indicted former Nixon campaign committee employees James W. McCord and G. Gordon Liddy; E. Howard Hunt, a former White House consultant; and Bernard L. Barker, Frank A. Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez and Virgilio R. Gonzalez on charges of burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping.

All but Liddy and McCord pleaded guilty in January 1973. After a trial presided over by Sirica, Liddy and McCord were convicted on all counts on Jan. 30, 1973.

On March 23, as he was about to impose provisional sentences on the defendants, Sirica released a letter he had received from McCord, which alleged that the defendants had been pressured into pleading guilty and that higher-ups were involved.

England's Wilson likely upset victor

LONDON (UPI) — Britain's general election ended today in deadlock, with Harold Wilson's Labor party likely to emerge as the largest single party but with no party commanding a majority in parliament at a time of grave economic crisis.

At 3:00 p.m. (11 a.m. EDT) party standings for 635 House of Commons seats were as follows: Conservatives 294 seats, Labor 300, Liberals 11, others 14. A party needs 318 seats for a majority; 16 seats were undecided.

It was one of the most indecisive elections in British history and political commentators said that horse-trading would start soon for support of an estimated 15 Liberals and 16 representatives of splinter parties who would hold the balance of power.

As Conservatives and Labor raced to a likely photo finish, Heath called a news conference at 3 p.m. and then canceled it without explanation.

Wilson, the nearest thing to a victor in this cliffhanging contest, met with his shadow cabinet to decide what action they should take.

If Wilson did form a minority government, political commentators said, it would have to be with at least tacit support of the Liberals and some of the splinter group representatives. These included Welsh and Scottish Nationalists and assorted Northern Ireland groups.

A Conservative party spokesman said Heath has not yet made up his mind whether to tender his government's resignation to Queen Elizabeth.

He said Heath also has had no contact with Wilson or Liberal party leader Jeremy Thorpe and that such contact is unlikely. He said Heath has been consulting leading members of his government.

Charles Bent featured in Viva

Charles Bent, a colorful and controversial figure in New Mexico history, is the topic of an article in Viva this weekend. Bent's term as governor spanned one of the most violent eras of New Mexico history. Viva tells his story Sunday.

Also in Sunday's Viva, a look at geothermal energy, a way to harness the earth's own heat as a solution to the energy crisis.

Also in The Sunday New Mexican, a review of the candidates and topics in the March 6 city elections and a preview of the ballot, a service sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Bullet shells and rifle at school police testify

By JACK HANDEY ESTANCA—The prosecution presented two more policemen as witnesses in the trial of the Santa Fe Seven here today, one testifying the found bullet shells and another a rifle at the site of a gun battle Sept. 3 in Agua Fria.

However, the defense moved against the admission of at least part of the items as evidence, claiming they were illegally seized.

A Santa Fe Police narcotics agent said he found 10 30-30 shell casings within the office of Escuela y Colegio Tonantzin, the Chicano school where the shootout occurred.

The agent, who asked not to be identified, also testified he found a live 30-30 bullet at an adobe construction site behind the school.

State Police Officer Stafford Wallis said he came across the butt of what later turned out to be a rifle while exploring the adobe site.

Both the narcotics agent and Wallis made their searches during the daylight hours of Sept. 4.

Defense attorneys argued that the search of the adobe area was improper. No search warrant was ever obtained for the post-shootout seizure of evidence. A Santa Fe Police detective testified yesterday he is sure it was defendant Geromino Garduno who was crawling along outside the school with what appeared to be a rifle—but when Garduno gave himself up, he didn't have a gun.

Detective Felix Martinez said he had "no doubt" it was Garduno who was crawling toward his position the night of Sept. 3, when police and the occupants of the school exchanged gunfire for three hours.

But when asked if Garduno had the reported rifle when he stood up, Martinez said, he didn't see one.

Garduno is one of seven defendants charged with assault with intent to commit a violent felony in connection with the post-Fiesta gun battle.

Martinez said no guns were subsequently found in the immediate area where Garduno was reportedly seen crawling.

Although Martinez indicated in his grand jury testimony of Sept. 11 that there was only one subject crawling, he has testified here that he saw two figures. The second person, according to Martinez, turned out to be defendant Jose Morfin.

"I saw one heading our way," Martinez told the grand jury. "I think it was either Geromino Garduno or Morfin." He also testified then that "it was pretty hard telling whether it was a male or a female."

Martinez insisted yesterday that he wasn't positive it was Garduno when he first saw the crawling figure, but he was certain when Garduno and Morfin later surrendered.

New stamps

Cost of living increases will strike again tonight at midnight when the cost of mailing a letter will go up two cents. Both first class mail and air mail will require new stamps, with airmail now costing 13 cents.

Letters mailed with incorrect postage will be treated according to the postmark, a Santa Fe postal official said. Those postmarked Friday will be cleared, and those postmarked after midnight will be forwarded with postage due to be paid by the recipient. If the addressee refuses to pay the extra amount, the letter will be returned to its sender.

Rates for books, records and mail order merchandise will also go up, as will parcel post costs. Customers will now be charged eight cents for postcards, the official said.

The new stamps are now available at the Santa Fe Post Office, or they may be purchased by mail with a check or money order.



PSC hearing reset on controversial gas hike

Public Service Commission has scheduled a new hearing on the controversial Southern Union Gas Co. rate adjustment hearing for April 2 and began today the process of publishing notices of the new hearing.

The gas company seeks to pass on to consumers the cost of drilling up to \$3 million worth of exploratory gas wells in the Albuquerque area. Drilling would be done under contract with Shell Oil Co. on Shell leases.

Southern Union officials had said their contract with Shell provided it would automatically terminate if the commission did not grant the rate increase by March 15.

The hearing had a fuke start on Tuesday, ended abruptly by a district court order. Attorneys opposing the rate adjustment obtained the order on grounds that the required 20-day notice was published late in Taz County.

Commission attorney James Farnolee agreed with the opponent lawyers that the commission should reschedule the hearing notices in the 27 counties served by the Southern Union. The opponent attorneys then agreed to dismiss their case.

District Court Judge Edwin Felter signed the dismissal with the agreement of both sides.

Felner took Farnolee to task for telling a news reporter that a Santa Fe County Grand Jury subpoena of commission files was "politically related" to the case.

The subpoena, seeking records of employee travel, vacations and leaves as well as correspondence with Southern Union, was issued on Wednesday.

Dist. Atty. Joe Castellano said the grand jury seemed generally satisfied with testimony Thursday morning by commission chairman Dick Montoya and W.D. James, Southern Union official.



BANK LOOT — New Mexico State Police Officer Mike Lujan counts nearly \$4,000 in cash and travelers checks after he arrested four persons whose suspicious actions led to the discovery of the money and six handguns in their vehicle near the Lamy Junction, Thursday. The two suspects were identified as Hodson Morgan, 37, and Jerry Shrewsbury, 27, who are suspected of a \$16,000 bank robbery in Molina, Ga., about two weeks ago. Also arrested were Patricia Shrewsbury, 18, and Sandy Stricklin, 18. Related story Page A-2 (Photo by B. Ronald Gallegos)

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