

# Watergate evidence shows President feared exposure

WASHINGTON — President Nixon expressed fear in the early stages of the Watergate investigation that his own involvement would be exposed, according to House Judiciary Committee impeachment inquiry evidence published Thursday.

The committee released eight volumes of accumulated evidence and documentation about Watergate which its 38 members had heard in the course of six weeks of closed

hearings.

Most of the material, which weighed several pounds, was a carefully documented compilation of information already on the public record, but some was newly revealed. Portions of two new tapes disclosed that:

— On June 30, 1972, less than two weeks after the Watergate burglary, Nixon expressed the fear to his top aides the investigation would lead beyond the original

break-in team. But there was no talk of a cover-up at this meeting.

— On March 17, 1973, as the investigation intensified, Nixon expressed the fear the inquiry would lead "to the White House, to the President." And Nixon added, "We've got to cut that off."

Nixon's press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, accused the committee Thursday of trying to manipulate public opinion by releasing piecemeal evidence supporting impeachment of the President.

But the President's Watergate lawyer, James D. St. Clair, told reporters he was pleased the committee had released "such a large volume of material" and that the Watergate evidence had not been published in a piecemeal manner.

The weighty document included one volume of rebuttal St. Clair had presented to the committee. It mostly involved answering the charge Nixon ordered hush money paid to Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt during a March 21, 1973 White House meeting.

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## Final arguments given in office break-in trial

WASHINGTON — The prosecution and defense presented their final arguments Thursday in the 11-day-old conspiracy trial of former presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman and three others in connection with the Ellsberg burglary.

Prosecutor William Merrill recounted to the jury testimony about a series of meetings involving Ehrlichman which he said linked President Nixon's former domestic affairs adviser to the break-in during the Labor Day weekend in 1971.

Attorneys William S. Frates and Henry B. Jones, dividing the two hours allotted to the defense, argued that Ehrlichman was tricked by the prosecution during investigation of the case, and that his inability to recall some events testified to by several witnesses was due to his busy schedule at the time.

The jury will begin deliberating the case Friday after being charged by U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell.

Ehrlichman is charged with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. Lewis J. Fielding of Los Angeles, the psychiatrist who treated Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg.

Merrill argued that Ehrlichman, who is also charged with lying to the FBI and a grand jury, sought to hide his involvement in planning of the Fielding break-in and later made false statements about that fact.

## Hostages seized at trial site

WASHINGTON—Two "extremely dangerous" convicts seized seven persons, including four deputy marshals, a woman and two lawyers, Thursday in the basement cellblock of the federal courthouse where the Ellsberg break-in trial is being held and threatened to kill them unless allowed to escape by plane.

The Ellsberg trial was not disrupted. Police, armed with shotguns and rifles and wearing flak jackets surrounded the building after the takeover occurred about 2 p.m. EDT and sealed off ventilation and elevator shafts.

Judge Gerhard Gesell told the departing Ellsberg jury not to be concerned about the commotion outside as they left and then told the spectators what was happening and to leave quickly.

The chief judge of the U.S. District Court, George L. Hart, said he had confirmed that four U.S. deputy marshals, two lawyers and a woman law clerk were being held hostage by the two inmates he described as "extremely dangerous."

Both convicts were facing 10 to 30 year prison terms for their part in a mass break from the D.C. Jail Oct. 25, 1972, that followed by two weeks an uprising they had led during which the city's corrections director was held hostage.

## Palestine may be recognized

TEL AVIV — In a dramatic change of policy, most of the Israeli cabinet now favors recognition of a Palestinian political entity, government sources said Thursday.

The sources said Israel still refuses to negotiate with the Palestinians as a separate bargaining agent but may agree to talk to the guerrillas as part of a Jordanian delegation.

The Israeli government sources said the cabinet would begin considerations next week of the Palestinian problem. Ever since its founding, Israel has maintained that a Palestinian political entity does not exist.

Government officials said the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the U.S. embassy have begun preparing for possible Israeli-Jordanian peace talks.

American officials say that Egypt now wants Israeli-Jordanian talks to be the next phase in Middle East peace talks, rather than another round of Egyptian-Israeli disengagement negotiations.

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Offices are at the Student Union building, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. Telephone numbers: News, Sports—933-1011, 933-1012; Business, Circulation, Advertising—933-1163.

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