



The trial begins

FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDES H. R. Haldeman (left, shown with his wife Jo) and John D. Ehrlichman leave the Federal District Court in Washington during a break in the Watergate cover-up trial, which began yesterday.

# Case started against 'most powerful men'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Asst. Special Prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste laid out his case against the five Watergate cover-up defendants yesterday, declaring he will prove an illegal conspiracy among "the most powerful men in the government of the United States."

He said the plan to cover up the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters more than two years ago "involved the participation of even the President himself."

The 31-year-old dark-haired prosecutor, speaking from a lectern only a few feet from the jury box, said former President Richard M. Nixon was willing to sacrifice a close aide to save himself and closer associates when the cover-up was unraveling.

Quoting from an April 19, 1973, White House tape, Ben-Veniste said Nixon believed that if former White House Counsel John W. Dean were turned over to Watergate prosecutors, they might not try and make a case against

presidential aides H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman or Nixon himself.

On the tape, Nixon said Haldeman and Ehrlichman should "give the investigators an hors d'oeuvres (Dean), maybe they won't come back for the main course," the prosecutor said.

Ben-Veniste said that in mid-April 1973, Nixon, Haldeman and Ehrlichman "considered a strategy of pushing Dean outside the circle of wagons around the White House."

On April 19, Dean issued a statement saying he would not allow himself to become a scapegoat. He was fired by Nixon on April 30, after months of handling the White House response to the various Watergate investigations.

Dean will be the first prosecution witness today once three of the defense lawyers have made their own opening statements in the trial, which is expected to last three or four months.

Ben-Veniste presented the now-familiar story of the cover-up in a courtroom jammed with reporters, about 35 spectators and some relatives of the defendants. He spoke for just more than three hours, describing the cover-up in short, simple sentences, describing hundreds of meetings, phone calls and actions which comprise the complicated conspiracy case.

an unnamed gubernatorial candidate, he said. It was not clear if Rebozo knew how the money was to be used.

For more than a year, the prosecutor told the jury, the defendants illegally tried to write off the original Watergate burglars as men "off on a lark of their own."

He said they failed because too many of those running the cover-up knew about the plan for illegal wiretapping and burglary in advance.

Ben-Veniste told the jury "The word conspiracy is not a difficult one — an agreement among two or more persons to violate the laws."

He said the prosecution will prove that the defendants and 19 unindicted co-conspirators, including former President Nixon, spent \$400,000 and attempted to thwart the FBI to keep the investigation away from themselves.

"We will prove to you in the course of this trial," Ben-Veniste said, "that attempts of legitimate law enforcement agencies of the United States to ascertain the facts which led to this Watergate break-in, including those who authorized and paid for the illegal burglary and bugging of Democratic national offices, were met by an effort to cover up the facts and obstruct the investigation by the most powerful men in the government of the United States in a conspiracy that involved the participation of even the President himself."

The trial, in its 10th day, was delayed for two hours when a juror, Lucille Plunkett, asked to be excused, saying she did not understand what sequestration meant.

For the length of the trial, jurors are living in a motel about two miles from the U.S. District Courthouse and are not permitted to travel to their homes or jobs.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica allowed Mrs. Plunkett to leave. She was replaced by Helen D. Pratt.

Ben-Veniste cautioned the jury about the hundreds of hours of White House tape recordings to be admitted as evidence. Saying many of the tapes are hard to hear, the prosecutor also warned, "The language used is sometimes vulgar and coarse."

He said the jury should accept that men in high office use obscenities and not allow that to distract them from the substance of the conversations.

Besides Mitchell, former White House chief of staff Haldeman and former White House domestic affairs chief Ehrlichman, the other defendants in the case are two 1972 re-election committee officials, Kenneth W. Parkinson and Robert C. Mardian.

# Will book hurt Rocky's hopes?

WASHINGTON (UPI) — House Judiciary Committee members said yesterday the Rockefeller family's backing of a derogatory 1970 campaign biography was the most damaging evidence uncovered in an FBI investigation of vice presidential nominee Nelson A. Rockefeller.

But Rep. Edward Mezvinsky, D-Iowa, one of the members contacted by UPI, said the committee's confirmation hearings on the Rockefeller nomination would have to probe the deeper question of whether there was a pattern "to that and other activities by all of the Rockefeller's."

The biography in question was written about former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and published with Rockefeller family funding while Goldberg and Rockefeller were opponents in the 1970 New York governor's race.

Rockefeller has also come under fire for gifts and loans totaling more than \$2 million he acknowledged giving to political associates, aides and friends between 1957 and 1974.

We know now that it's not enough to just take a look at Mr. Nelson Rockefeller," Mezvinsky said in a telephone interview. "We'll have to take a look at the whole family — at the effect of the family and its money on public policy and governmental decisions."

The fact that a person has great wealth is not a factor. It's what he does with it."

Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., said an extensive investigation of Rockefeller by the FBI had turned up nothing more damaging than the Goldberg biography. Mezvinsky agreed, but said other less serious items which he was not free to disclose also had been found.

In Las Vegas, Goldberg said yesterday the biography was "a dirty business" and "a hatchet job." He said he had offered to testify before the Senate Rules committee if it reopens hearings on the nomination.

"This offer is not personal or political in any way," Goldberg told a news conference. "There are more overriding questions involved, and that is whether or not a person named for the second highest office in the land should be confirmed."

Mezvinsky's call for an examination of the influence of the entire Rockefeller family was the broadest suggested yet by members of the House Judiciary and Senate Rules committees, both of which must vote on confirmation of the vice presidential nomination.

But many members feel, in light of disclosures about the biography and the gifts, that Rockefeller must be subjected to a tougher and more far-reaching investigation than that originally envisioned.

Mezvinsky, contacted by telephone while campaigning in his home state, said Iowans had expressed increasing concern about the Rockefeller nomination.

"Before, it was viewed as cut and dried — we were simply going to confirm the recommendation of the President. But these revelations of the past few days have raised questions in my mind and in the minds of others."

"The climate has changed, and it's changed to such a degree that unless the answers are frank and candid Mr. Rockefeller could find his nomination in real jeopardy."

The Judiciary Committee is likely to be tough on Rockefeller, Mezvinsky said, because it "has just come out of an investigation of dirty tricks 1972" and the latest disclosures on Rockefeller "makes one feel we're now going back to dirty tricks 1970."

Rangel said perhaps the most damaging aspect of the 1970 Goldberg biography was not its publication but the reports of Rockefeller first denying and later acknowledging he had known in advance of the publication plans.

Others close to the Judiciary Committee and to the Senate Rules Committee, both of which must vote on confirmation of the vice presidential nomination, similarly stressed Rockefeller's conflicting statements on the Goldberg biography as the most troublesome problem he now faces.

"A lot of people are very disturbed," one source said. "This thing about the book raises questions in terms of his candor."

Details of the book incident were uncovered by the FBI, which has com-

pleted its primary investigation of Rockefeller, sources said. They said a report on Rockefeller's taxes, prepared by Congress' Joint Committee on Internal Revenue and Taxation, is expected to be presented to the Judiciary Committee this week.

The biography about Goldberg, who opposed Rockefeller in the 1970 New York governor's race, was written by columnist Victor Lasky and published by Arlington House. It was backed by a \$60,000 investment by Rockefeller's brother Laurence.

Sen. James B. Allen, a member of the Rules Committee, yesterday urged that the new hearings be expanded to include those involved in publication of the Goldberg book, rather than Rockefeller alone.

Allen said that Nelson Rockefeller, Laurence Rockefeller, Goldberg, Lasky and officials of Arlington House publishers all should be summoned as witnesses.

He also said the committee should hear testimony from recipients of the \$2 million in gifts and forgiven loans Rockefeller said Friday he gave to public officials, aides and friends between 1957 and 1974.

In a televised appearance in Washington yesterday on WTTG-TV's Panorama, Lasky said he did not know when he wrote the book that Rockefeller money had backed it.

Israel, US vote against invitation PLO to take part in UN debate

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organization, which coordinates the activities of Arab guerrilla groups, won an overwhelming vote yesterday to take part in the debate on Palestine by the U.N. General Assembly.

The assembly voted 105-4 with 20 abstentions to invite the PLO to take part in the coming debate as "the representative of the Palestinian people."

Only Israel, the United States, Bolivia

and the Dominican Republic voted against the resolution tendering the invitation. The United States said before the vote it "presents some very serious problems."

Arab sources said PLO chief Yasir Arafat would be joined by many Arab foreign ministers at the Palestinian debate, expected to begin Nov. 7 and last about two weeks.

Jordan voted for the resolution but was not among the 71 sponsors, most of which were Communist or Third World

countries. King Hussein has declined to recognize the PLO as representative of Palestinians under Jordanian jurisdiction, though he recognizes its authority elsewhere.

Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah called the vote "the surrender of the United Nations to murder and barbarism."

"Israel will have no part in this surrender," he said, seeming to imply a boycott of the Palestinian debate.

"The resolution," Tekoah said in a statement of journalists, "sabotages the peace-making endeavors which are being made at this very moment in the Middle East."

The PLO, which believes the land of Israel belongs to the Palestinians, began operations against the Jewish state in

# USG Senate votes Mast support, funds

By SHEILA McCAULEY  
 Collegian Staff Writer

The Undergraduate Student Government Senate last night officially endorsed Yates Mast, local candidate for the U.S. Congress.

The Senate also approved a \$250 contribution to Mast's campaign.

The endorsement praised Mast for his activities as student legal adviser and said he had "continually benefited the students" at the University.

The Senate also passed a bill to form an ad hoc committee to research the possibility of having a student lawyer on campus.

The bill called for "a student lawyer... to help either USG or any other chartered student organization take test cases to court."

Supporters of the bill had argued that the present student legal adviser is limited in activity because he is sponsored by the University and cannot represent students in court.

Five other committees were formed by Senate vote last night.

The first of those committees will study USG Constitution and Standing Rules reform. The Senate bill which created the committee called for reform because of "ambiguities and inconsistencies" in the Constitution and Standing Rules.

Another ad hoc committee will investigate political candidates for the Nov. 5 elections and recommend candidates.

The Senate voted not to investigate Congressional candidates because it already had endorsed Yates Mast for Congress.

An Audit Committee also was formed at the behest of student Trustee Dion Stewart. Sponsors of the bill to form the committee said Stewart requested a committee to define USG's audit policy.

The bill's sponsors called for the policy definition so that Stewart could tell the University's Board of Trustees exactly what USG wanted from its audit requests.

The Senate also formed an ad hoc committee to review the University's discipline system and to recommend changes to the Senate.

Sponsors of the bill to form the discipline system committee said the current system raises serious questions as to presentation of evidence at hearings and selection processes of the Student Standards Boards and Appeal Boards.

The sixth committee the Senate formed will "research, recommend, and aid in the implementation of a program to solve the problems of handicapped individuals on campus."

The bill which formed the committee said facilities for handicapped people at the University were inadequate. The bill also provided that the committee would work closely with a similar committee under University President John W. Oswald.

In other action last night, the Senate approved acting Parliamentarian Dave Perlman as permanent Parliamentarian. The Senate also approved Greg Lynch as USG Treasurer. Lynch replaced Craig McClain, who resigned several weeks ago.

Ford vetoes measure cutting aid to Turkey

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his first major confrontation with Congress, President Ford vetoed a measure yesterday to cut off U.S. arms aid to Turkey, declaring the ban would dash hopes for a Cyprus peace settlement.

House leaders arranged a vote today on a move to override the veto. The measure had been enacted by a lopsided vote, but Democratic leaders acknowledged chances of overriding the President's action were slim. A two-thirds vote is necessary to override a veto.

The Turkish aid cutoff amendment was attached to a resolution continuing the funding of such major government operations as foreign aid and health and housing programs, while Congress decides on the agencies' annual appropriations.

The amendment would cut off U.S. aid to Turkey until Ford can certify substantial progress toward a settlement on reduction or withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus.

The President also would have to certify that the invasion of Cyprus did not violate U.S. foreign aid laws.

Because of the threatened veto, Congress delayed the scheduled start Friday of its month-long recess. Unless the dispute is settled, some government

agencies could be without funds to meet their payrolls Nov. 1.

It was Ford's sixth veto since assuming the presidency Aug. 9, but the first on major legislation.

In a written message to the House, the President declared that if the measure became law "we would inevitably be forced from the Cyprus negotiations because the Congress would have taken from us the tools we need to affect the outcome."

He added that the amendment would "imperil our relationships with our Turkish ally and weaken us in the crucial eastern Mediterranean. It directly jeopardizes the NATO alliance."

In a separate statement he read for television cameras and radio microphones, Ford said he vetoed the resolution "in the interest of preserving the ability of the United States to assist the governments of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus to negotiate a peaceful settlement."

Ford said the amendment "in no way helps the Greek people or the people of Cyprus who have suffered so much in the past month. In fact, by dashing hopes for negotiations, it prolongs their suffering."

Leftists urge cartel to protect Mexico oil

United Press International

Two leftist political parties urged yesterday that Mexico not only join the Middle East oil cartel but also help establish a separate Latin American cartel to protect Mexico's new oil find against U.S. "imperialism."

The call for Mexico's entry into the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries collided with reported U.S. plans to negotiate directly with Mexico on the new oil discovery in hopes of breaking the world oil cartel's leverage with the United States.

The Popular Socialist Party, one of Mexico's four legal parties and the newly formed Mexican Party of Workers, said that in addition to joining OPEC a "parallel Latin American organization of oil producing nations should be created in defense of our interests against the aggressive position of imperialism."

Their demand came amidst continuing estimates that the newly discovered fields in southeastern Mexico contain so

much petroleum the total may not only outstrip the Venezuela oil fields but even the richest of those in the Middle East.

Elsewhere on the world oil front, President Ferdinand E. Marcos Monday welcomed the first shipment of Chinese crude oil to the Philippines.

China has agreed to ship the Philippines a million tons of oil a year, roughly a tenth of the island republic's yearly consumption.

In Tripoli, Libya's National Oil Corporation and the French oil company "Total" signed a production-sharing and oil exploration agreement Sunday, Libya's official Arab Revolution News Agency said.

Weather

Mostly cloudy and cool with periods of rain through tonight. Clearing tomorrow. High today, 62. Low tonight, 46. High tomorrow, 56.