

Wednesday, January 1, 1975
Reid Collins

From Washington.....

From Vail, Colorado.....

From the Middle East! comes today's news. Good

Evening, everybody. This is Reid Collins for

Lowell Thomas.

The Watergate trial has ended with guilty verdicts against four of the five defendants. The climax rounded out an even three months of legal proceeding.

From Washington, Jed Duvall reports: (tape 1:20)

Outside the courtroom, H.R. Haldeman declared his innocence again.

John Mitchell said he had collected many errors on which to hang his planned appeal.

John Erlichman predicted that the juries' story would reveal heavy pre-trial publicity played a major role. Erlichman also states his innocence but suggests it might be too expensive to pursue:

ERLICHMAN

Nothing has happened to in any way shake our confidence in my innocence and I certainly wouldn't want to encourage any thought on anybody's part that in the context of a pardon that I was guilty. I don't feel guilty, I know I'm not guilty of the charges and I, I simply er, I simply will have to hesitate a long, long time. Now balanced against that is the fact that to maintain one's innocence and to defend the case of this kind cost an enormous amount of money which I don't have and they'll become practical considerations at some point as to how one puts an end to all this.

Special instructions: Nothing can shake his confidence as far as the verdict is concerned.

SAM ERVIN

Some of the legal troubles for Mitchell and Haldeman were accumulated in their appearances before the Senate Watergate committee.

The chairman, former democratic Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina, was not surprised^y today's verdict:

"I would have thought that, I'm not surprised at the time they did deliberate, but I'm not surprised them returning a verdict this quickly because I heard all of this evidence except on tapes. I didn't hear that. But I thought the evidence was over, guilt was overwhelming."

VAIL

In Vail, Colorado, CBS News Correspondent Phil

Jones quotes an aide to President Ford as saying the

Watergate verdicts were "wholesome", the aide, unidentified

reflecting Presidential approval ^{of the} ~~of the~~ trial outcome.

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PRESIDENT FORD

President Ford today named housing secretary James Lynn to succeed Roy Ash as director of management and budget. Lynn remains in housing until the Senate confirms his new appointment. Ash returns to private life.

Mr. Ford has vetoed a measure to raise the mileage and living allowance for government officials, saying it could amount to sixty million dollars a year.

The President signed another bill designed to guard against abuse of private individual information in government possession.

For the President this was the last downhill day at Vail, Colorado. He returns tomorrow to Washington and prepares to deal with a new Congress up the hill.

DOUGLAS

Supreme Court Justice William Douglas is in Walter Reed Army Hospital apparently the victim of a stroke

At Seventy-Six, Douglas is the eldest member of the court and has served since Nineteen-Thirty-Nine, longer than any justice in history.

He was stricken yesterday while vacationing in the Bahamas and was flown immediately to Washington.

Douglas is listed in serious condition, vital signs stable.

TRANSPLANT

Dr. Christian Barnard has performed the world's second double heart transplant, the technique involving the transplant of a donor heart to a position beside the weakened heart of the recipient.

Sources in Cape Town South Africa say the donor was a seventeen year old girl; the recipient patient is not identified.

Dr. Barnard had implanted a twin heart in a middle age man five weeks ago and he is now said to be making reasonable progress. Of Barnard's Eleven transplant patients, three now survive.

ISRAEL

Israeli troops infiltrated Lebanon during the night, seizing five hostages and blowing up half a dozen houses.

The prisoners were returned to Israel to be questioned about their alleged aid to Palestinian guerrillas.

CAIRO

A couple of hundred people rioted in Cairo, Egypt today over high prices and low wages.

They set fire to a train and smashed windows in cars and shops.

Police say they arrested twenty-five persons.

Eye-witnesses say they saw at least fifteen injured.

SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces have been on the attack today in both South Vietnam and Cambodia - overrunning more than a dozen government positions in both countries. Scores of civilians were killed, wounded or captured and hundreds of troops were sent into retreat.

VENEZUELA

Venezuela's President Perez today raised his nation's flag over a pile of iron ore that used to belong to U.S. Steel and Bethlehem.

Perez said the U.S. dominated oil holdings will be taken over also within the next few ~~months~~ months.

The North American steel firms are being ~~compensated~~ compensated to the tune of one hundred million dollars and they'll remain on as caretakers and technical advisers.