

## Pentagon Embezzlement Attorneys Sum Up Cases

By Peter S. Diggins

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Government and defense lawyers entered their final arguments yesterday in the case of two former Pentagon officials on trial in Alexandria Federal Court on charges of conspiracy and embezzlement.

The attorneys spent almost four hours discussing the complex and sometimes bizarre testimony that the jury of nine men and three women has heard from 57 witnesses over seven days.

U.S. Attorney C. Vernon Spratley Jr. reviewed the testimony for the jury and related it to the charges against the defendants, John A. Wylie and William H. Godel.

The men "acted in concert and many overt acts were undertaken" aimed at defrauding the Government, Spratley contended.

Wylie's attorney, James F. FitzGerald, said both defendants had a "reputation for an ability to perform and to get the job done." At most, he argued, they might be guilty of failing to be "overly zeal-

ous" in observing governmental red tape in an effort to complete their duties quickly and efficiently.

At the end of his presentation, FitzGerald discussed medical testimony concerning Wylie indicating that "something is physically wrong with his brain." The lawyer turned to his client, 57, saying:

"You see him sit there seemingly impassive," adding that Wylie has appeared unconcerned about the charge against him and he doubted whether his client could distinguish right from wrong.

Key to the case is the conspiracy charge, declared Godel's attorney, E. Waller Dudley, as he began his final plea. "These overt acts are of no importance unless the Government shows a meeting of minds" to defraud.

But no one, he declared, has testified that a conspiracy between the two men was even suspected.

Judge Oren R. Lewis will instruct the jury today on the law applicable in the case.

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