

MAY 18 1965

FOIAb3b

Embezzlement Suspects' Work Records Praised

By Peter S. Diggins
Washington Post Staff Writer

Defense attorneys for two former Pentagon officials, who are being tried on embezzlement and conspiracy charges, rested their cases yesterday in Alexandria Federal Court.

The bulk of testimony for both men came from character witnesses who praised the defendants' records of service to the Government.

Depositions taken from two former Vietnamese officials were read into the court record on behalf of defendant William H. Godel. Both spoke highly of Godel's efforts in aiding the South Vietnamese government in its effort to stop Communist infiltration into the nation.

James F. Fitzgerald, attorney for the other defendant, John A. Wylie, presented his

case in little more than an hour.

In addition to several character witnesses, Alexander Tish, Chief of the Disability Retirement Section of the Civil Service Commission, testified that Wylie had been retired from Federal work as "totally disabled for useful and efficient service." Tish said Wylie would have been unable to continue as director of Budget and Finance in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Upon receiving Wylie's application for retirement, the Civil Service Commission conducted a special investigation into his health, Tish testified. The findings showed that Wylie was suffering from hypertension, arteriosclerosis, depressive psychosis, severe anxiety and obesity.

CPYRGHT