

House for full-scale investigation

House probes early Government probe of Watergate

The subject except the original...
...of the part of the Presi-
...said this was not the Presi-
...Mr. Nixon, he said, had "turned
...for a full-scale in-
...of Watergate and had
...General Richard Kleindienst
...the only ones involved.

Another probe
...Mr. Ehrlichman also told the
...committee that there was another
...White House Plumbers unit inves-
...action that cannot be made pub-

The said regarding the activity
...would compromise national secu-
...rity.
...Senator Howard Baker (R,
...Team) noted that a memorandum
...in evidence before the committee
...had one paragraph left blank and
...said Mr. Ehrlichman if he could
...provide it.

"I'd probably be violating two
...or three statutes if I provided
...this," Mr. Ehrlichman said. He
...added it involved a 1971 investiga-
...tion no way related to the Water-
...gate affair.

"Is it a co-mingling of Water-
...gate and other matters?" Senator
...Baker asked.

"Not inherently," said Mr. Ehr-
...lichman, but an inquiry into Wat-
...ergate leads to an inquiry to this
...matter which would compromise
...it.

The known activity of a special
...White House investigative unit
...known as the Plumbers includes
...the break-in at the office of Dan-
...iel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, investi-
...gation into leaks concerning the
...Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
...and a probe into publication of
...White House discussions about the
...Bangladesh civil war.

Mr. Ehrlichman's lawyer, John
...Wilson, produced a recent letter
...from White House special counsel
...Fred Buzhardt "directing us to
...claim executive privilege (on a
...matter) identified only as a fourth
...instance of the activities of the
...Plumbers."

Mr. Ehrlichman said he would
...tell the senators about it in closed
...session if the White House ap-
...proves.

Senator Baker said the commit-
...tee is left in an untenable position
...and "we've got to press this fur-
...ther in connection with the tapes,
...the documents, the May 22 state-
...ment, a dozen other things I could
...name. We have to know what was
...taken into account to validate the
...claim of national security which
...is in some quarters suspect."

Colossal leaks

Mr. Wilson, referring to "colos-
...sals" leaks out of the committee,
...said he would ask White House
...permission for closed-session tes-
...timony if "we could assure the
...word we give you will not go out
...of the meeting."

Mr. Ehrlichman testified that
...he never heard of a political ene-
...mies list while he was in the
...White House.

And he said he knows of no in-
...stance where the White House
...staff received a citizen's individ-
...ual income tax return, although
...Internal Revenue Service figures
...show that 915 "tax checks" were

sought by the White House in 1972
...alone.

Mr. Ehrlichman, whose testi-
...mony has been frequently at odds
...with that of ousted White House
...counsel John Dean said he heard
...of the enemies list only after Mr.
...Dean revealed its existence to the
...committee.

Mr. Dean had said tax audits
...and FBI investigations were
...sought against some people on the
...list to harass them.

When Mr. Ehrlichman denied
...any tax returns were sought by
...the White House, Senator Joseph
...Montoya (D, N.M. queried IRS
...statistics about the tax checks
...that were made.