

Evidence on Ehrlichman And Haldeman Reported

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Washington — Federal prosecutors now have evidence directly linking H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former top White House advisers, to illegal activities against Daniel Ellsberg in 1971, sources close to the Watergate investigation disclosed yesterday.

Prosecutors have concluded, it was said, that those activities were a major factor behind the decision at the White House to cover up the bugging and break-in at Democratic

national headquarters a year later.

This theory of prosecution, for the first time linking the two aides directly to illegal activities against Ellsberg, was described by the sources as the heart of the government's prospective case against Haldeman, who resigned last month as President Nixon's chief of staff, and Ehrlichman, who resigned as the President's top domestic adviser.

The theory was outlined to Archibald Cox, the newly appointed Watergate special
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Watergate Probe

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prosecutor, in his meeting with federal prosecutors last week.

A spokesman for Haldeman and Ehrlichman denied that the two men had participated in or covered up any criminal activities while serving in the White House.

Jury Gets Evidence

The sources said damaging evidence against Haldeman and Ehrlichman was presented to the federal grand jury here by David R. Young Jr., a former National Security Council aide.

He served as co-director of the so-called "plumber team" ordered by the President to stop leaks of information after Ellsberg copied the so-called Pentagon Papers and gave them to newspapers for publication in June, 1971.

Charges against Ellsberg were dropped at his recent trial after it was disclosed that people involved in the break-in at the Watergate Office Building also burglarized the office of Ellsberg's former psychiatrist in Los Angeles in an attempt to get damaging evidence against Ellsberg.

Watergate prosecutors believe, sources here said, that President Nixon's statement last Tuesday on the cover-up was designed, in the words of one official, "to provide an umbrella of national security for Haldeman and Ehrlichman."

"If ever a statement was drafted to meet a grand jury inquiry, that was it," a Justice Department official said.

More Reports Leaked

In other developments:

— United Press International said it had learned that Haldeman and Ehrlichman have testified they didn't know until last March that John N. Mitchell, then attorney general, had secret meetings with others shortly before Watergate to discuss campaign intelligence operations. Mitchell has acknowledged such meetings, but said he rejected proposals to bug the Watergate. Haldeman and Ehrlichman, in sworn depositions concerning a suit by the Democrats against the Committee to Reelect the President, denied knowing in advance of Watergate, but refused to answer questions about the cover-up afterward,

it was said.

— Time magazine quoted fired White House counsel John Dean 34, as saying he will be "an old man" before he'll testify about Watergate if he is indicted. Dean has said he is willing to tell all he knows, which is a lot, but wants immunity from prosecution in exchange. Both Dean and Mitchell have said they will not allow themselves to be made scapegoats. Dean told Time that Watergate developments "coming out inch by inch" still have "a mile to go" and that in the White House "eternal hope prevails that somehow they won't have to travel that last mile."

Prisoners Transferred

—Prison officials confirmed the transfer of five convicted Watergate conspirators from the District of Columbia jail to the Federal Correctional Institute at Danbury, Conn. They are E. Howard Hunt, Jr., a former White House consultant who directed the political espionage group, and four who were arrested in the Watergate offices, Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio T. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis, and Virgilio R. Gonzales. They got maximum terms of up to 40 years, but the sentences were made provisional to encourage them to talk in exchange for lesser terms. They have not been able to raise bail of \$100,000 each. G. Gordon Liddy, convicted conspirator, remains in the D.C. Jail. A seventh, James W. McCord, is free on \$100,000 bond and talking.