

Haldeman Cleared in Rally Suit

CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 5 (AP)—A federal jury dismissed a \$1 million lawsuit today against former White House aide H. R. Haldeman and others stemming from a turbulent 1971 rally attended by President Nixon.

The jury deliberated about two hours before deciding that the constitutional rights of none of the 18 plaintiffs had been violated.

George Daly, attorney for the plaintiffs, did not indicate whether he would appeal.

The plaintiffs, most of them members of the local antiwar Red Hornets May Day Tribe, had filed suit against Haldeman and others alleging the plaintiffs were illegally excluded from an Oct. 15, 1971, rally honoring evangelist Billy Graham.

Earlier, U.S. District Court Judge James B. McMillan dismissed as defendants 11 Secret Service agents, three Charlotte police officers and two members of the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Remaining as defendants were Haldeman, White House chief of staff under Nixon; three other former White House staffers; two members of the local VFW; and three Charlotte police officers. The VFW provided marshals for the rally.

McMillan told the jury to decide whether "the actions of any of the White House defendants were maliciously or wantonly or oppressively done."

Several plaintiffs testified they were turned away or ejected from the Charlotte Coliseum although they had tickets to the rally.

Testimony during the two-week trial indicated the plan for excluding potential or suspected demonstrators was conceived by White House advance personnel, but was implemented over the objections of Secret Service agents assigned to protect Nixon.