

Ehrlichman Friends See Him Testifying

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By Kenneth Reich

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SEATTLE, April 16 — Close friends of former White House Aide John D. Ehrlichman say here that Ehrlichman has privately expressed disenchantment with President Nixon and has told them he is considering reaching a settlement on the Watergate-related charges pending against him.

The majority view among the Ehrlichman friends interviewed in the last several days is that Ehrlichman's personality and personal feelings weigh against pleading guilty on any issue, even to greatly reduced charges, and testifying for the government.

However, one person who has been close to the former domestic affairs counselor to Mr. Nixon stated emphatically that he believes Ehrlichman will settle with the office of Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski on a reduced charge.

Ehrlichman is reported to have expressed the feeling that while Mr. Nixon has had major accomplishments for which he is not getting credit, particularly in international relations, his effectiveness as a President has ended.

Ehrlichman also reportedly has indicated to friends that he has had something of a falling out with his longtime friend and colleague, former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, who, like Ehrlichman is charged in the Watergate cover-up case.

Ehrlichman is said to have confided that he resigned his

White House post last year after reaching what he thought was an understanding that President Nixon would follow up Ehrlichman's and Haldeman's resignations with a complete statement and admission of everything that he knew about the Watergate case and its handling.

Not only is Ehrlichman reported by friends here to be extremely disappointed with what he views as Mr. Nixon's failure to follow through with this but they say he has told them he was shocked and surprised by the revelation of the existence of the tape recordings of White House conversations.

Ehrlichman is said to have told friends that he resents that Haldeman never told him of the existence of the tapes.

He is also said to have expressed his own conviction that the 18½-minute gap on one tape, relating to a conversation between Haldeman and the President, was deliberately caused.

Ehrlichman himself was not interviewed before this article was written. However, the friends who were interviewed include professional associates and neighbors who have been in close touch with him here. They spoke on the understanding that they would not be identified by name.

The friends disagreed among themselves on the question of how close Ehrlichman may be to settling his own case and possibly turning state's evidence. But they

agreed generally on his assertedly critical attitude toward Mr. Nixon.

In short, these friends say that even though Ehrlichman has distinctly soured on President Nixon and Haldeman, it is a long leap from that to ad-

mitting even some guilt in the Watergate case.

It is clear here that it has been a difficult homecoming for Ehrlichman to the city where he practiced law for many years before becoming a White House aide in 1969.