

Parade 7-23-72
Q. I recently heard John Ehrlichman say on TV that the reason President Nixon didn't hold more press conferences was because the newspapermen asked "a lot of flabby and fairly dumb questions." Having been in school with Ehrlichman I can understand his affinity for words like "dumb" and "flabby." My question is who in the Nixon Administration was responsible for making this brilliant gentleman the Presidential adviser on domestic affairs? Also how does Nixon rate with other Presidents on the number of press conferences?—T.S., Los Angeles, Calif.

A. Ehrlichman, 47, is a close friend of Bob Haldeman, Nixon's chief of staff. They were classmates at UCLA. In 1960 when Haldeman was an advance man for Nixon he lured Ehrlichman into joining him. In 1968 Ehrlichman was made "tour director" of the Nixon campaign. He owes his present position to the President who recognized his diligence, legal background, his ability to evaluate and compromise opposing

domestic views. Like Haldeman, however, Ehrlichman is not at his best on TV. He shoots from the lip in an attempt to defend President Nixon against all charges.

As regards the number of press conferences held by various Presidents, Nixon, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, a Republican newspaper, "has held fewer press conferences by far than any of his predecessors in the past 40 years. He held eight during his first year in the White House, four in his second year and nine in his third year." Nixon, of course, is no admirer of the U.S. press.