Q. Is it not a fact that Harry "Bob" Haldeman is the second most powerful man in the United States government?—Al Drummond, Oakland, Calif.

A. It is not a fact, but that would be a fair judgment to arrive at. Haldeman is head of the White House inner circle. It was he who brought into government his one time UCLA roommate, John Ehrlichman, who in turn has spotted many of his former aides into key departmental posts. These men are accountable to Ehrlichman and indirectly to Haldeman. For the most part, Haldeman also rules on those people who can and who cannot visit with the President. Moreover, he controls, through Press Secretary Ron Ziegler, the White House Press Office. President Nixon trusts Haldeman implicitly. Surely, there is no one in Washington who now wields more power behind the scenes than "Bob" Haldeman.