

# Ehrlichman Says Nixon Won't Rusticate

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SEATTLE, Aug. 11 (AP)—Richard M. Nixon, driven from the Presidency by the Watergate scandal, will not become a recluse, his former top domestic adviser predicted today.

Mr. Nixon has "by no means thrown in the towel on his career or his life or his expectations of being a productive and constructive person in the future," John D. Ehrlichman said in an interview on the porch of his home on Lake Washington. "I would be very much surprised if he just took up kite making or surf fishing and let the world find its way."

Mr. Ehrlichman said Mr. Nixon would probably do some writing and perhaps eventually fill a "senior statesman" role of some sort.

Mr. Ehrlichman, who resigned his White House post in April, 1973, in the wake of the Watergate scandal, said the former President "must surely be very unhappy."

"He's had a very personal defeat in Washington in a polit-

ical sense, and he's an individual who doesn't like to lose," he went on. "It's been my experience that losing does not put him out of business, so to speak, doesn't down him for long. But certainly I'm sure he's what you would call a bad loser"

The 49-year-old Ehrlichman, who is awaiting trial on the Watergate cover-up case and is appealing a conviction in the Daniel Ellsberg break-in case, said he did not think Mr. Nixon should be impeached or prosecuted in the Watergate affair.

### No Useful Purpose

"I just don't see that that would serve any constructive or useful purpose at all," he said. "It seems to me now it's time for the country to engage itself in constructive and progressive and useful activity rather than recriminatory activity. And that is my hope for the new Administration, that they can really turn the country in that direction and move along."

Asked if he thought Mr.

Nixon should have made some sort of confession and apology for the Watergate affair when he announced his resignation, Mr. Ehrlichman said, "It's always easy for someone 3,000 miles and a year and a half away to make judgments."

He said Mr. Nixon seemed to be apologizing in a way in his speech to his staff last Friday morning when he said he wished he had spent more time with middle and lower echelon White House workers.

Mr. Ehrlichman, who was with Mr. Nixon beginning with the 1968 campaign, said he had urged the then President to have closer working relationships with staff members throughout the Executive Office Building, where many of Mr. Ehrlichman's own 60 staff members had desks.

But, he said, Mr. Nixon "made a deliberate decision to conduct Presidency the other way" and not spend time meeting lower echelon staffers.

"I thought the decision was a mistake when it was made," he said.