

Ehrlichman Asks Aid ^{Paul Ehrlich}

SEATTLE—Former presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman said the federal government should help him fight 16 lawsuits brought by Jane Fonda and others.

Sitting on the back porch of his large home here in the exclusive Hunts Point area, Ehrlichman said Congress or the Attorney General could authorize the payment of some of his estimated \$300,000 in legal expenses.

"The Justice Department's obligation to defend former government officials or some form of financial indemnification ought to be considered," Ehrlichman said.

"It specifically applies in my case because I am involved in 16 civil cases brought by all sorts of groups ranging from the Socialist Workers Party through the American Civil Liberties Union to Jane Fonda to, well, you know those kinds of things. The government will defend me in my official capacity but not in my individual capacity, which as a practical matter is no defense at all."

Ehrlichman said such a defense should be made by the government because of possible future problems of recruiting persons to government if they must run the risks of such suits.