

Ehrlichman's Notes Released

White House View of Ellsberg

Washington

Two months before the Plumbers burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, President Nixon asked John D. Ehrlichman whether a "non-legal team" should be put on the Ellsberg "conspiracy," according to documents released by the House Judiciary Committee.

In Ehrlichman's handwritten notes of conversations with the President, Mr. Nixon is quoted as saying that damaging information on Ellsberg must be leaked to the press — "that is the way we win." The President added that the Ellsberg case "must be tried in the papers."

Ehrlichman, then Mr. Nixon's top domestic adviser, subsequently was convicted of conspiracy in the Sept. 3, 1971, burglary, which was executed by the White House Plumbers team.

Another White House aide, Charles W. Colson, pleaded guilty to putting out derogatory information on Ellsberg in violation of his civil rights, Colson said he acted at the urging of the President.

Ehrlichman's notes were turned over to the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry by the Watergate special prosecutor's office last Monday.

Gurney's Lament

Cocoa Beach, Fla.

U.S. Senator Ed Gurney, (Rep-Fla.) saying he is "sick of politics," will decide early this week whether to abandon his re-election campaign in the face of federal indictments for bribery and conspiracy.

Republican party leaders have been pressuring Gurney, a member of the Senate Watergate committee and a staunch supporter of President Nixon, to withdraw from the campaign for the GOP primary election September 12 because of the indictments.

"My assessment shows I

could win the nomination," Gurney told a group of Young Republicans Saturday night. "The general election is another matter. That's what I'm trying to find out."

Florida GOP chairman L. E. Thomas has been urging Gurney to withdraw and has threatened to convene the state executive committee to consider the matter unless Gurney drops from the race. "I'm sick of politics," Gurney said. But he added that so far he has been able to withstand the pressure to withdraw.

"It's a tough year for Re-

publicans — especially Republicans in trouble — and I've certainly got troubles," Gurney said.

Gurney was indicted by a federal grand jury in Jacksonville: July 10 on 11 counts of bribery, conspiracy and perjury in connection with fundraising activities on his behalf. He is charged with demanding payments from home builders in exchange for influence in awarding lucrative federal housing contracts.

The first-term Republican pleaded innocent to the charges at his arraignment last Monday.

United Press

with the President. Ehrlichman noted:

"Win PR (public relations), not just court case." Two days later, the notes state: "Win the case but the NB (apparently meaning next best) thing is to get the public view right. Hang it all on LBJ."

The apparent intent was to lay blame on former President Lyndon B. Johnson for any embarrassing aspects of the Vietnam war detailed in the Pentagon Papers.

The staff report said that on June 23, ten days after publication of the Pentagon Papers and several weeks before organization of the Plumbers, Ehrlichman's notes show that former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird advised the President and Ehrlichman that 98 percent of the Pentagon Papers could have been declassified.

This was acknowledged on July 1 when the President said, according to the notes, "Espionage — not involved in Ellsberg case," and "don't think in terms of spies."

The report said Mr. Nixon advised Ehrlichman to read the Alger Hiss chapter in the President's book "Six Crises," observing, "it was won in the press." At the same meeting, Ehrlichman wrote, "leak stuff out — that is the way we win."

Los Angeles Times

They were released Saturday.

They "confirm that the President viewed the prosecution of Ellsberg (for leaking the Pentagon Papers to the press) not principally as a national security matter, but with a view toward gaining a public relations and political advantage." The committee's staff charged in a report submitted by special counsel John M. Doar.

Citing the Ellsberg case and various wiretaps of

newsmen and government employees, the staff report accused Mr. Nixon of "widespread and repeated abuses of power" in authorizing and concealing "illegal intelligence-gathering activities" carried out for his "political benefit."

The staff report disputed the President's contention that the Plumbers' mission was to investigate security leaks.

"Documents written at the time of the formation of the

Plumbers . . . show that the Pentagon Papers matter was viewed primarily as an opportunity to discredit Ellsberg, the peace movement, the Democratic party and prior administrations," the report said.

It cited memos by Colson and White House aide Patrick Buchanan in an effort to support this point.

Then the report referred to Ehrlichman's notes of a June 17, 1971, conversation