

House-Hunting at the Ehrlichmans':

By Maxine Cheshire

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The White House finally got around to disconnecting the special telephone lines into former presidential assistant John D. Ehrlichman's house in Great Falls, Va., last week.

But the cable wasn't removed until after a prospective buyer, being shown around the premises by a real estate agent, innocently picked up an extension and caused consternation at the switchboard at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Until the "hot line" was disconnected, Ehrlichman needed only to press a button to speak directly to President Nixon's Oval office without fear of being overheard by electronic eavesdroppers.

After the Ehrlichmans' house, at 330 Chesapeake Dr., went up for sale last week, the phone was a curiosity to those few interested purchasers allowed to inspect the property.

Not just anyone can get inside the Ehrlichman house by pretending to be in the market for a six-bedroom brick colonial with a price tag of \$139,000.

Would-be buyers are being screened and two agents follow them closely from room to room to make sure they don't snoop into books or papers.

Actually, there are few personal items lying around except for a Christian Science hymnal on the piano and political posters in the rec room.

One shows California Gov. Ronald Reagan in a cowboy outfit and over it the Ehrlichmans have pasted a

"Nixon Is The One" banner. Another is an autographed photograph of Georgia's segregationist Lt. Gov., Lester Maddox.

Apparently, Ehrlichman has been reading everything printed in the newspapers on Watergate and is keeping it all for reference. There are hundreds of old newspapers stacked everywhere.

Although large in size, the Ehrlichman house is not pretentious and one woman who saw it last week could not understand why the asking price was \$139,000 for a house they bought five years ago for \$75,000.

The Ehrlichmans haven't started packing yet, though the promised date of occupancy is July 15.

Nixon Lanes

There has been some confusion over who paid for the new bowling alley installed for the First Family's use in the White House.

After the existence of the alley became known last week, United Press International carried a story quoting First Lady Pat Nixon's press secretary, Helen Smith, as saying that the Nixons had "paid for the lane out of their own pockets."

Later, Mrs. Smith told The Washington Post that the UPI reporter had "misunderstood."

"All I said was that no government funds were involved and that it was a private matter," she said.

After further checking, she had discovered that the lane had been installed by the American Machine Foundry Co., the bowling alley manufacturer which

The Nixons' Lane Phone's Extra

leases to the government the two alleys in the Executive Office Building previous First Families had used.

According to AMF spokesman Thomas Briggs, the Nixons' new alley is being leased to the government under the same 1955 contract which covers the other lanes. He declined to disclose the rental fee.

But Mrs. Smith insists friends of the Nixons, including Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, pay the rental and also underwrote the expenses of remodeling and decorating space in the executive mansion to house the facility.

"Mr. Rebozo loves to bowl and he and Mrs. Nixon bowl there frequently together," said Mrs. Smith.

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