

EHRlichman ENDS ON LOYALTY NOTE

Finishes Senate Testimony
by Reaffirming Innocence
and Defending President

7/3/73
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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 30 —

John D. Ehrlichman ended today his five days of testimony before the Senate Watergate committee as he had begun last Tuesday, by insisting that neither he nor President Nixon was involved in any aspect of the Watergate cover-up.

After the committee had finished its questioning, Mr.

Excerpts from Ehrlichman's testimony are on Page 23.

Ehrlichman read a prepared statement proclaiming his loyalty to the President.

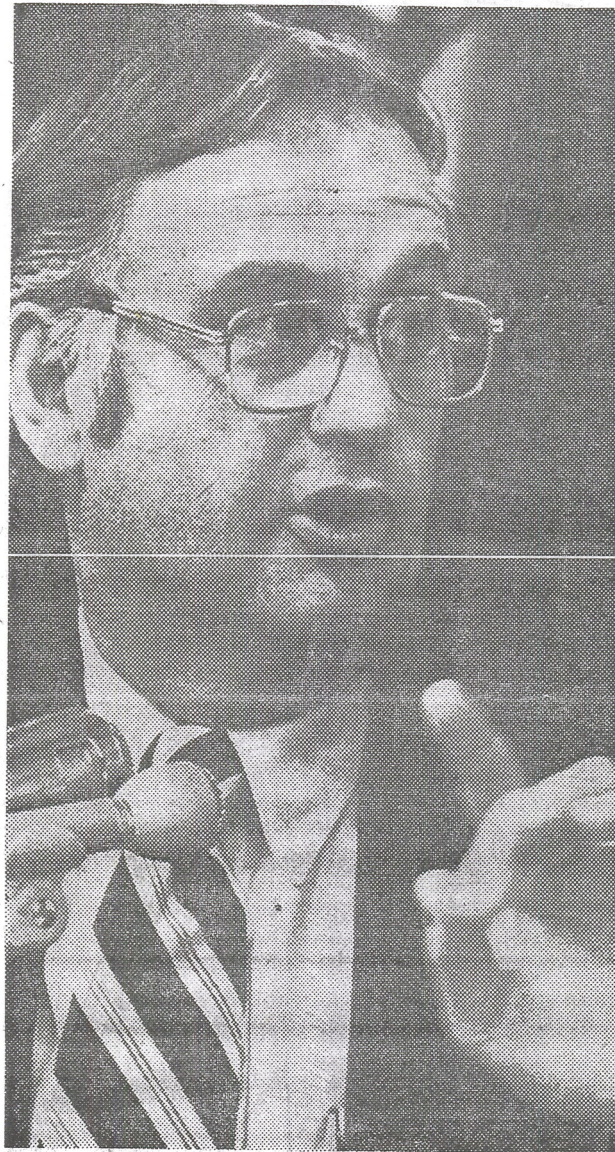
Mr. Nixon's former chief domestic adviser said that he had spent all his time since he left the White House last April 30 preparing for his Watergate defense. And he said he had two objectives that he hoped he had met in more than 30 hours at the witness table.

The first objective was to establish his innocence of the accusations that had been made against him by several of his former colleagues in the White House. The second objective, he said, was to "raise a voice for the President—to be his advocate."

"I do not apologize for my loyalty to the President," Mr. Ehrlichman said.

Then he changed his manner

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Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut discussing testimony of John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman with John J. Wilson, their lawyer.

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from that of a combative witness to a fatherly adviser.

He recalled that Gordon C. Strachan, a 30-year-old former White House aide, had told the committee last Monday that he was so distraught at having been snared in the Watergate web that he would advise other young people to "stay away" from jobs in the government.

Politics, Mr. Ehrlichman declared, is only as honest as the people involved in it, adding that his advice to the young would be different from Mr. Strachan's.

"I hope they do come and test their ideas and convictions in this market place," Mr. Ehrlichman said. "I hope they come here and do better."

But the former Presidential adviser, who is 48 years old, added a note of caution.

There are many in Washington, he said, who scoff at such qualities as patriotism and sense of family, and he advised young people who go to work for the President to "come here with your eyes open."

'Don't Stay Away'

But there are also good men whose values are the same as his, Mr. Ehrlichman said. "Don't stay away," he concluded. "Come. Join them and do it better."

As he had throughout his testimony, Mr. Ehrlichman today repeatedly contradicted points made by other witnesses, particularly those of John W. Dean 3d, the former counsel to the President. And he again pictured Mr. Dean as the linchpin in the Watergate scandal—a once-trusted staff member who time and again had misled

the President and his closest advisers.

He denied, as Mr. Dean had testified, that he had told Mr. Dean to "deep six" politically sensitive documents that were taken from the safe of E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the Watergate conspirators.

Mr. Ehrlichman swore that he had not, as Mr. Dean testified, asked Mr. Nixon about granting executive clemency for Hunt.

Further Denials

There were further denials: That Mr. Dean had told Mr. Ehrlichman about strategy meetings to plan the perjured testimony of Jeb Stuart Magruder, the deputy campaign director; that he had heard a transcript of a conversation between Hunt and Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to the President, and that he had seen a hand-written note of Mr. Dean's outlining the officials who, Mr. Dean thought, might be indicted in the Watergate case.

After he left the Caucus Room of the Old Senate Office Building, where the hearings are being held, Mr. Ehrlichman was asked by reporters whether he thought he would be indicted. He replied:

"I see no reason why I should be indicted. I think that the prosecutor has a real political problem here. With all this hoopla on television and so on, if he doesn't indict everybody in sight, he's going to have to have some pretty good reason why he didn't."

Mr. Ehrlichman also disputed once more the testimony of Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's former personal attorney.

He said he had never looked

Mr. Kalmbach in the eyes and given him his personal assurance that there was nothing improper about raising money for the Watergate defendants. And he denied that Mr. Kalmbach had ever told him any specifics about his fund-raising efforts, such as how much was raised and from whom.

Mr. Ehrlichman also repeated his contention that, while he had known immediately about the 1971 break-in and burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist by White House agents, he had not told the President about it. But, for the first time, he was asked today why he had not told Mr. Nixon about it.

"It was an event that had occurred," Mr. Ehrlichman said. "There was nothing the President could do about it. I just made the judgment it would unnecessarily tax his attention."

But Mr. Ehrlichman insisted that, while it was part of his job to filter material from the President, he had never lied to Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Ehrlichman said the President had never asked him to try to find out how thousands of dollars of Nixon campaign funds were found on the men arrested in the Democratic National Committee's offices at the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972.

Told to Stay Away

Last February or early March, Mr. Ehrlichman testified, Mr. Nixon told him to stay away from Watergate matters so that he could devote his attention to his job as domestic affairs adviser.

Eight times between last September and the end of March, Mr. Ehrlichman con-

tinued, the President asked one or another aide to prepare a definitive written report on the Watergate situation, but none was ever written. He was not asked and did not explain what the President's reaction was when his instructions were not carried out.

Mr. Ehrlichman was also questioned briefly about telephone conversations he had last April 17 with Ken W. Clawson, a member of the President's communications staff, and Mr. Colson. Mr. Ehrlichman had recorded the conversations, and the committee had subpoenaed his transcripts.

Mr. Ehrlichman said that Mr. Dean had told the prosecutors that, at a meeting where Mr. Colson and Mr. Clawson were



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Mr. Wilson during the exchange of remarks with Senator Weicker near the end of Mr. Ehrlichman's appearance. Senator Weicker had asked about conflicts.

supposedly present, Mr. Ehrlichman had suggested getting Hunt out of the country.

Mr. Clawson said that he did not recall the discussion but was willing to "recollect anything you want me to."

Mr. Colson said that he was not at the meeting. He went on to say that he personally wanted to "nail" Mr. Dean.