

Ehrlichman: Who and

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Washington — They were the quint-essential Nixon men.

Hard-working, conservative, humorless, bland. Long on technique, short on philosophy. Mistrustful of, if not downright hostile to, liberals, Congress and the press. And above all, supremely loyal to Richard M. Nixon.

They were men of enormous power. One of them, White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, had been called "the second most powerful man in America." He was the President's closest adviser.

The other, often overshadowed by Haldeman, was the President's chief counselor on domestic affairs. He is one-time Seattle lawyer John D. Ehrlichman. It was his task to sift through the myriad of proposals formulated in the bureaucracy and by White House staff members, to provide options for the President.

Wide Variety

Ehrlichman also advised Mr. Nixon on a wide variety of matters, large and small, particularly after former Attorney General John N. Mitchell left Washington.

Ehrlichman and Haldeman were resented, even hated, in many offices on Capitol Hill. They were accused of "isolating" the President. They were called the Berlin Wall, the Germans, Hans and Fritz, the Katzenjammer Kids.

To professional politicians like Sen. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), they were "overzealous amateurs" totally lacking in political understanding.

And when it all collapsed, when they were sucked into the morass called Watergate, there was no one to mourn them, except, of course, for their President.

When he accepted their resignations last Monday, Mr. Nixon praised Ehrlichman and Haldeman for their "selflessness and dedication."

Regret Expressed

"Their contributions to the work of this administration have been enormous," he said. "I greatly regret their departure."

Why

were posted at their offices to ensure the safety of documents in their files. It was a humiliating comedown for the once-mighty officials.

And there were reports that both men would be indicted, along with others, for orchestrating an attempted cover-up of the Watergate affair.

Lawyer Retained

Even before stepping down, they had retained a prominent Washington trial lawyer, John J. Wilson, to represent them.

It was an abrupt fall indeed for the two, one-time UCLA classmates who had risen from obscurity in the service of Richard Nixon.

Ehrlichman and Haldeman are often confused with each other in the public mind. And for good reason. Like Haldeman, Ehrlichman is a non-smoking, non-drinking Christian Scientist who had dedicated himself absolutely to the President.

They played tennis against each other every week, often teaming with their wives for mixed doubles.

But they differ greatly in physical appearance. Ehrlichman, 48, is a balding, moon-faced man with a thickening middle.

The trim sharp-featured Haldeman, two years younger, sports a 1950s-vintage flat-top haircut and has the look of a Marine drill sergeant.

While neither has much time for

the Washington cultural scene or the Georgetown cocktail circuit, Ehrlichman is regarded as somewhat more gregarious. He also has a wider range of interest.

Ehrlichman enjoys the theater, while Haldeman's favorite form of entertainment is watching home-movies of Richard Nixon.

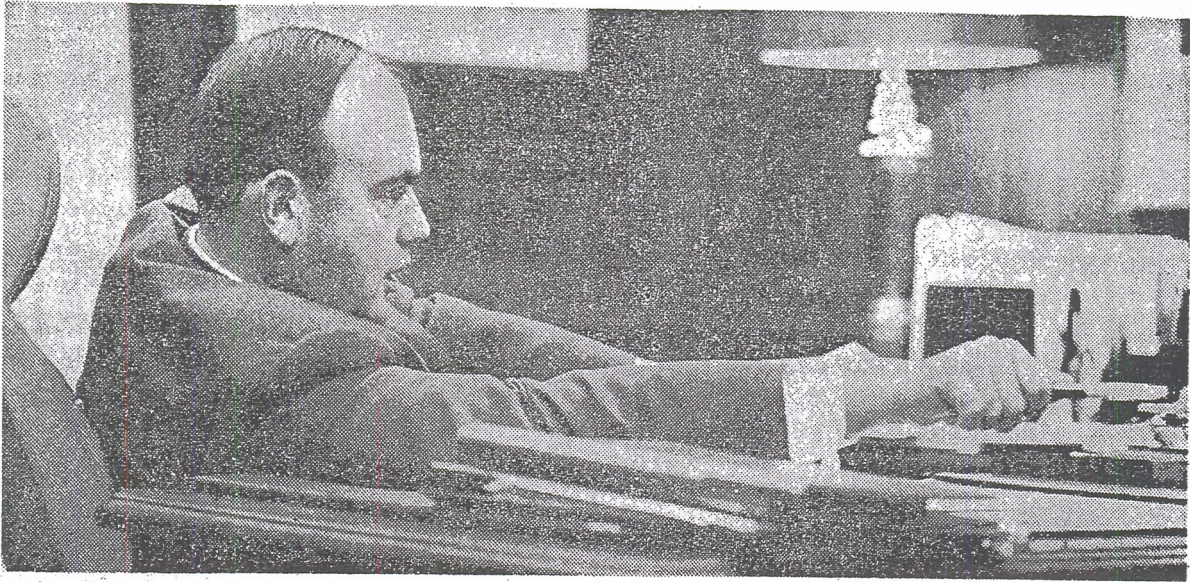
Their roles differed sharply too. As a program man, Ehrlichman had much more contact with Congress and the press. He served as a salesman for such Nixon administration initiatives as revenue-sharing.

Haldeman, the remote superclerk at the top, concentrated on tactical matters, organization and regulating the flow of people and papers to the President.

Senator's Aide

"Our relationship with Haldeman didn't exist," explained an aide to one prominent Republican Senator. "It wasn't in the chain of command. Our relationship was with Ehrlichman for domestic affairs, (national security adviser Henry A.) Kissinger for foreign affairs and (White House assistant William E.) Timmons for Congressional liaison."

Ehrlichman first joined the Nixon team for the unsuccessful 1960 race for the presidency. He was recruited by Haldeman, who has been with the President for every race since 1956.



BEFORE THE FALL: Former Presidential adviser John Ehrlichman. He resigned last week.

Ehrlichman worked briefly in the disastrous 1962 California Senate campaign, and when Nixon decided to seek the presidential nomination in 1966, Ehrlichman was assigned to organize the Nixon convention headquarters in Miami Beach. He later became "tour director" for the campaign.

Sent Plane Off

Like Haldeman, Ehrlichman impressed the President and his entourage with his efficiency. Once during the 1968 campaign, while two speechwriters were in the airport making telephone calls, Ehrlichman ordered the campaign plane to take off, leaving the writers behind.

Like Haldeman, he has never worked for any other politician than Richard Nixon.

Until recently, Ehrlichman had hardly been linked to the Watergate scandal. But in the past 10 days, he has figured prominently in a series of startling disclosures.

First it was revealed that recently-resigned FBI chief L. Patrick Gray 3d had destroyed documents taken from the safe of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Gray said he had done so after a meeting with Ehrlichman and White House counsel John W. Dean 3d, at which he was told the papers should "never see the light of day." Mr. Nixon fired Dean last week.

According to some reports, Ehrlichman had previously told Dean he should throw the politically-embarrassing documents into the Potomac River.

Ehrlichman confirmed that the meeting had taken place but denied he had ordered the records burned.

He was also connected to the bizarre burglary, by Watergate team-mates Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Ehrlichman admitted to FBI agents that, at the President's request, he had instructed the two men to investigate the leak of the Pentagon Papers to the press.

'Psychiatric Profile'

There was information that Ellsberg had "emotional and moral problems" Ehrlichman explained, and Hunt and Liddy wanted to put together a "psychiatric profile" of the hawk-turned-dove.

Ehrlichman said he had not ordered the burglary and had told the men not to do it again, once he found out about it. However, he apparently did not report the matter to law enforcement officials.

There were also reports that, following a heavy campaign contribution, Ehrlichman had asked the American embassy in Lebanon to intercede on behalf of the embattled Vesco interests.

In submitting their resignations, both Ehrlichman and Haldeman proclaimed their innocence. They expressed confidence that when all the facts are out, they will be exonerated.

With the federal grand jury continuing its probe, with Senate hearings on Watergate due to start next week, it is clear that more will indeed be heard.

But one thing is certain. The imposing Berlin Wall at 1600 Pennsylvania ave. has crumbled utterly.