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H. R. (Bob) Haldeman . . .

# A Welcome Home For Bob Haldeman

By Leroy F. Aarons

LOS ANGELES—Former White House power H. R. "Bob" Haldeman gave his version of the Watergate episode and the events that followed when he joined about 70 old friends today at a "welcome home" luncheon at Los Angeles' famed Perino's Restaurant.

But that version stayed secret behind the closed doors of Perino's Renaissance Room, barred even to the wives of the stag group inside. The women were relegated to a table in the main dining room.

The guest list for the affair, arranged by Z. Wayne Griffin, a local investor and longtime friend of the Haldeman family, was heavily studded with Republicans, who pulled up to Perino's driveway in the Wilshire district in a procession

of Cadillacs and Continentals.

Among the arrivals were Robert Finch, former HEW Secretary and later a special aide to President Nixon, who has since complained that he had great difficulty getting past Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman in those bygone White House days. Finch slipped into the luncheon early, saying only, "Wayne Griffin is a friend of mine. I'm here to pay tribute to the family. It's a personal sort of thing."

Also present were Herb Klein, former communications director for the Nixon administration; Charles Young, chancellor of UCLA (where Haldeman was alumni president a few years ago); Taft Schneider, head of Universal Pictures

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. . . and his son Hamh.

HALDEMAN, From B1  
and a prominent California Republican; Justin Dart, head of Dart Industries; Holmes Tuttle, a Ford dealer and major Republican fund-raiser; Charles Luckman, the architect, and Franklin D. Murphy, chairman of the board of the Los Angeles Times-Mirror Co.

Several guests refused to identify themselves, brushing past reporters with such remarks as "Why don't you leave the guy alone."

The "guy," Bob Haldeman, with his new longish hairstyle, paused long enough to politely tell reporters he had nothing to say. Asked about the miss-

ing presidential tapes and other matters, the former White House chief of staff declared:

"I am answering all questions that the appropriate authorities are asking me about these matters. I have complete confidence in the President and in the American judicial system and am sure the American people will share that as they come to know the facts."

Haldeman, a former advertising man, was born and raised in Los Angeles, the son of a well-to-do family which ran an air conditioning business. The family business is still in operation. Haldeman has recently purchased a home in the exclusive Hancock Park district, not far from Perino's

After Haldeman arrived, his 21-year-old son, Hank, a junior at UCLA, pulled up in a beat-up Datsun sports model, his back-length hair held in place by a blue bandana. Pulling on a suit jacket and doffing the bandana, young Haldeman told reporters he is still holding to his promise to get a crew-cut once his father's hair reaches his shoulders.

Inside the restaurant, Haldeman and friends sat down to a lunch of Boston

lettuce with Bay shrimp, roast beef with cottage fried potatoes and spinach, and a dessert consisting of an apple slice a la mode for dessert, by Perino standards a \$14 package, not including drinks.

The women, including Haldeman's mother, Katherine, his wife, Joanne, his sister, Mrs. France Raine, and several others, retired to a round table in the main dining room.

Behind the closed doors of the Renaissance Room, the all-male group was introduced to Haldeman's father-in-law, attorney Joseph Horton, Haldeman's youngest son, Peter, 15, and then heard Hank introduce his father.

Speaking from a small lecture, Haldeman spent more than a half-hour talking about the events in Washington. Asked later if Haldeman gave his version of what happened, Peter Haldeman replied firmly:

"He gave the version of what happened."

Griffin, who said he had arranged the luncheon to honor a "guy who has given up a hell of a lot," added later that Haldeman spoke about his hopes for the future and "with great hon-

esty and clarity" about the presidential tapes. But Griffin said he spoke in general terms and did not get specific about the tapes.

Haldeman himself, upon emerging from the luncheon, demurred about discussing what went on inside, but posed amiably for pho-

tos with his family. He then took off in his mother's brown Coupe de Ville Cadillac.

Hank and Peter (who is a student at the Harvard Military School in North Hollywood, his father's alma mater) drove off in the old Datsun.