Ehrlichman May Call Kissinger

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman plans to subpoena Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger as a defense witness at the plumbers' trial, a well-informed source says.

Ehrlichman also plans to subpoena White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr., and to ask President Nixon to answer written questions rather than to press a subpoena for Nixon to testify, the source said.

In the trial which begins June 26, Ehrlichman and three others are charged with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding.

The source disclosed that earlier this month Ehrlichman, once Nixon's chief domestic adviser, had subpoenaed Nixon, Kissinger, Haig and White House counsel J. Fred Buzhardt, a Watergate adviser to Nixon, to testify.

But these subpoenas were answerable June 17, when the trial originally was set to begin. On Friday, however, U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell postponed the trial until June 26, making the subpoenas moot.

Buzhardt suffered a heart attack Thursday and is expected to remain hospitalized for a month. As a result, Ehrlichman and his attorneys are no longer pressing for his testimony, the source said.

The change of strategy regarding Nixon comes in the wake of strong indications that the President would refuse to appear in behalf of his former aide, a man he has lauded consistently.

The charges stem from the burglary of Fielding's office in California in September, 1971, a time when the White House special investigations — or "plumbers" — unit was assigned to stop leaks of national security information to newspapers.

In a May 22, 1973 speech, Nixon assumed responsibility, saying he had directed that "as a matter of first priority, the unit should find out all it could about Mr. Ellsberg's associates and his motives." Ellsberg has said he leaked the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of the Vietnam war, to newspapers.

Nixon has denied knowing of the break-in in advance, and Kissinger has said he did not know of the plumbers unit before the break-in.