

JUN 14 1972

'Newsmen Ask Dumb SF Examiner Questions'

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — President Nixon's domestic affairs adviser says one reason the President has few news conferences is that newsmen ask dumb questions.

"He goes in there for a half hour and gets a lot of flabby and fairly dumb questions and it doesn't really elucidate very much," said John Ehrlichmann.

"I've seen him many times come off one of those things and go back in and say, 'Isn't it extraordinary how poor the quality of the questions are?'"

Asked during an interview taped yesterday for showing on television Saturday on why Nixon has had only one news conference this year, he said, "He's been very busy, and he communicates with the American people in a lot of different ways."

In a typical news conference, Ehrlichmann said, "You have 300 people jump-

ing up and yelling, 'Mr. President,' and all that kind of thing and it just isn't a very useful way of communicating with the American people. . . .

"I think some of them may be preoccupied with their own interests or their bureaus may have fed them things that they're asked to ask, but the long and short of it is that you don't get very much out of it.

"It seems to me a great deal more . . . could be developed as interesting news and valuable for the people, out of a one-on-one with Dan Rather (CBS White House correspondent, where he could follow up and press and so on."