By Lou Cannon
Washington Post

San Clemente

corner on Watergate. said yesterday that Presihe has finally turned the dent Nixon is convinced White House officials

problem facing the adminis which they said is the No. 1 particularly in food prices, about mounting inflation, him. But they also described ence of last week and by retration. Mrs. Nixon as concerned President's view that he response to his press confer-Mr Nixon is buoyed by the These officials said that

ministration must not make Haig warned that the adstill believes it can contain said that, the Administration promises which it could not inflation. At the same time

the administration with Anne Armstrong, liaison for Presidential counselor Vatergate Is Pag

state Republican organizamy as "the No. 1 issue." ions, described the econo-

confrint a dangerous inflaits Watergate crisis only to concern that the administracord and some on a not some of them on - the - retionary situation. tion may be emerging from House officials shared the ior - attribution basis, White In a series of interviews,

important things." dent to concentrate on more pressed it, is one in which courts and allow the Presition of Watergate over to the time to turn the whole ques-62 per cent agreed that "it is recent Harris poll in which gate the results of the most the optimism about Water-They cited as reason for

President's chief of staff

Alexander M. Haig Jr., the

by the "strategy of silence" no longer feel constrained House aides, Mr. Nixon will As a result, said White

speak and answer charges centrate on issues other than the President intends to conwhenever necessary. gust 15 televised speech from May 22 until his Aunow believes he is free to Watergate, they said, he he followed on Watergate

feeling of Watergate opti-mism is shared by Republican state party leaders throughout the country. Mrs. Armstrong said this

economy properly and suffi-ciently." we've told the story on the Mrs. the corner on Watergate," '... They don't think "They think we've turned Armstrong said.

ciles itself to higher prices flation generally. for food while containing inthe administration recon-This story, as Haig ex-

Haig, a former four-star

from the White House. While resignation of H. R. Haldedent's chief of staff after the rank to become the Presiman, also reiterated comministration." mitment to an "open . adgeneral who gave up his

quested to do so. staff members have been inficials whenever they are restructed to assist cabinet ofthan absorb them and that ments of government rather assist the various depart-House staff is now trying to He said that the White

dent's newly désignated seed by the drop-in visit of reporters in his office here cretary of state. Henry Killinger, the Presiwas unexpectedly interrupt-Haig's interview by five

room and said, "the open face, Kissinger burst in the ing, it's disgusting." administration — it's revolt-With a broad smile on his