

# Aide Haldeman No Longer Presides

WASHINGTON — (AP) — H. R. Haldeman, who has been implicated in the Watergate scandal, no longer presides at regular early morning meetings of senior presidential aides, but a spokesman insisted today his status as White House chief of staff is unchanged.

The regular daily meetings, which had been held since President Nixon took office, were ended two or three weeks ago, press secretary Ronald Ziegler said in response to questions.

Haldeman had presided over the daily sessions attended by such Nixon aides as John Ehrlichman, Ziegler, Roy Ash, and George Shultz.

## 'Man at Work'

Ziegler said the change in procedure came because it was decided "we could be more productive . . . by meeting with individual members of the staff and with department heads in separate meetings."

During today's hour-long news briefing, Ziegler was asked about Nixon's mood as he pursues the Watergate investigation.

"He is very much concentrating on this matter . . . He is a man at work," Ziegler responded.

When asked whether Nixon was angry, outraged, or saddened by the major new developments he reported last week, Ziegler said he was "not prepared to project that type of feeling on the part of the President."

"I have seen the President involved in a number of difficult situations in the 4½ years he's been in office and in each of these periods I have not detected . . . a change in mood as such," Ziegler said.

## Limited Responses

The press secretary gave only limited responses to the barrage of questions he faced at his first briefing since last Thursday. But he said he expects he could be more responsive "at some point in the future."

Ziegler did say, in response to questions, that there has been "no change

in the status of the White House staff" and that no resignations have been submitted by aides allegedly involved in the Watergate case.

He also denied that Nixon was warned in August, 1972, of the scope of the Watergate scandal. "Any suggestion that the President had knowledge . . . at that time . . . is not correct," Ziegler said.

He also noted, however, that Nixon was deeply involved at the time in other matters and "was depending on the ongoing investigations taking place" to unravel the Watergate case.

## Aides Still Meet

In discussing the suspension of the early-morning meetings of senior presidential aides, Ziegler said the aides still meet frequently throughout the day and talk often on the telephone and that it would be the "wrong conclusion to draw" to link the suspension of the meetings to the Watergate case.

Haldeman in the past has usually been the first aide Nixon sees when he reaches his office. Asked whether that was the case today, Ziegler said he didn't know but that "I think Bob has seen him."