

Haldeman and Ehrlichman Still Working

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The White House has moved into a Watergate "transition," with top presidential aides H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman resigned but still working.

White House sources say President Nixon has given little thought to choosing successors for Haldeman and Ehrlichman, his two closest associates. Both are expected to stay on at the White House for an undetermined period.

Their status is quite different from that of John W. Dean III, whom Nixon fired yesterday as presidential counsel. Leonard Garment, special consultant to the President, was named immediately to take over Dean's duties until a permanent successor is picked.

Dean, Haldeman and Ehrlichman are leaving the White House because of the Watergate case.

Transition Role

Ehrlichman, the President's chief domestic-policy adviser, hinted at a transition role in the final paragraph of his letter of resignation to Nixon yesterday.

He said his Domestic Council staff has "so many good people of ability that I am confident a transition of

my responsibilities can be effective without loss of progress." And he added, "I will do all I can to assist in accomplishing the transition."

Haldeman, Nixon's chief of staff, and Ehrlichman remain on the White House payroll, it was learned.

Asked how long the two might be involved in the transition, Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said, "I don't think anybody really knows."

Decision Final

The Washington Post said Haldeman and Ehrlichman told Nixon they did not want to resign, but the President told them his decision was final.

Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler, who seems to have weathered the credibility storms of Watergate, also is considered entrenched among the top staff members.

In his address on Watergate last night, Nixon said he and his press secretary shared Watergate misconceptions until "new information" came to light in March.

Asked if Ziegler is going to stay on, Warren replied with emphasis, "You can say that with great assurance."