

2 Top Aides Said Facing Indictments

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The lawyers for H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman told a federal judge here yesterday that the two former top White House aides "may be indicted" as a result of the federal grand jury's investigation into the Watergate affair.

The statement, contained in a formal motion filed with U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey, was accompanied by sworn statements from Haldeman and Ehrlichman in which they say that they have been formally notified by the prosecution that they are "subjects of the investigation" and that their statements could be used in "subsequent proceedings."

Although it has been previously reported that both Haldeman and Ehrlichman had testified before the grand jury here, their affidavits and the statement of their lawyers yesterday were the first formal acknowledgement that the former presidential aides may be defendants in a criminal trial.

The motion filed with Judge Richey asks him to delay scheduled depositions of Haldeman and Ehrlichman set for May 22 in connection with the \$6.4 million civil suit brought by the Democratic National Committee against officials of the Committee for the Re-election of the President following the break-in and bugging of the Democrats' Watergate headquarters.

In related developments yesterday:

• Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.), chairman of the Senate select committee investigating the Watergate affair told a press conference in Brunswick, Maine, that during the committee's public hearings "there will be some startling revelations brought out that have not yet been disclosed by the news me-

dia." The televised hearings begin at 10 a.m. (EDT) today.

• Chief U. S. District Judge John J. Sirica granted immunity from prosecution yesterday to former White House aide David R. Young and Roy H. Sheppard, a mysterious figure in the Watergate investigation. In granting the two men immunity, Sirica directed them to answer questions before the grand jury.

• The attorney for John W. Dean III, the former White House counsel who has become a central figure in the Watergate scandal, also asked Judge Richey to postpone Dean's deposition in the Democrats' civil suit. Dean's lawyer said the deposition, set for May 17, may jeopardize Dean's bid to gain immunity from prosecution in return for his testimony before the Senate committee.

• Convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy was granted limited immunity from prosecution and ordered to testify before the Senate committee yesterday by Judge Sirica. Liddy is now serving an eight-month contempt of court jail term—on top of the six years and eight months term he was given for his role in the Watergate conspiracy—after he refused to answer questions before the grand jury. Liddy's lawyer, Peter Maroulis, said yesterday he also has advised his client not to answer Senate committee questions because it might jeopardize appeal of his Watergate conviction.

Haldeman, until his resignation was accepted by President Nixon on April 30, was the White House chief of staff and generally considered to be one of the most powerful men in the Nixon administration. Ehrlichman, whose resignation also was accepted on April 30, was chief assistant to the President for domestic affairs and part of the inner circle at the White House.

In his affidavit, Haldeman said he had appeared before the grand jury on May 9 and 14. Ehrlichman said he appeared on May 3, 9 and 14. According to the lawyers for

both men, John J. Wilson and Frank H. Strickler, Haldeman has testified for a total of about six hours and Ehrlichman for about eight hours.

The affidavits of both men contain this statement: "That in connection with

my said appearances I was told by the Assistant United States Attorney before the said grand jury that I was one of the subjects of the investigation, and that anything I might say could be used against me in subsequent proceedings." Such a warning before a grand jury appearance is standard when the witness is a potential defendant.

The lawyers' brief says that "It is possible that one or the other or both movants (Haldeman and Ehrlichman) may be indicted as a result of the investigation."

Haldeman and Ehrlichman reportedly are implicated in a variety of steps allegedly taken to cover up the Watergate scandal:

• Lt. Gen. Vernon Walters, deputy director of the CIA, has told a Senate committee that both men, along with Dean, tried to pressure the CIA into assisting in the cover-up. The CIA resisted the pressures, Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) said after hearing Walters in closed testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee Monday.

• Ehrlichman and Dean reportedly turned over documents to acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III taken from the Executive Office Building safe of convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. Gray reportedly said he was

told by Dean that the documents should "never see the light of day." Gray has denied reports that he destroyed the documents.

• Dean is reported to be prepared to testify under oath that Haldeman and Ehrlichman aided in the alleged cover-up. The grand jury reportedly has been told that money was paid to the Watergate conspirators on Haldeman's orders to buy their silence.

In the hearing before Judge Sirica on immunity for former White House aide Young, the transcript of the grand jury proceedings—read in open court—showed that Young had declined to answer questions about his job in the White House for the National Security Council.

Young, whose resignation from the White House was announced April 30, declined to tell the grand jury whether he had been involved in White House investigations of security leaks.

Roy H. Sheppard, whose former lawyer told Sirica

last month that his client had received eight cartons of Watergate-related documents at the White House the day after the Watergate break-in, refused to answer all questions put to him before the grand jury. Sheppard refused to say whether he was married, whether he knew Hunt or whether he was reading his Fifth Amendment invocation from a slip of paper.

Dean's motion to delay the taking of his deposition states that federal prosecutors "have refused to indicate" whether Dean "is only

a witness or a prospective defendant or target" of the grand jury's investigation. Dean has not been called yet to testify, his lawyer, Charles N. Shaffer, said, but he "will be called," he added.

The Senate committee has voted to grant immunity from prosecution to Dean for any statements he makes to the committee under oath. If Dean were to give his deposition prior to appearing before the committee or the grand jury, Shaffer said, he could jeopardize his Fifth Amendment rights and thus the immunity the committee is granting him.

The Justice Department still has not told the committee whether it will exercise its legal right to delay the granting of immunity to Dean for 30 days, according to a committee source.

The committee has received a letter from Justice saying that the department will delay for the maximum 30 days the immunity the committee granted more than a week ago to former deputy Nixon campaign manager Jeb Stuart Magruder, according to an informed source.

Sen. Ervin did not elaborate yesterday on his prediction of "startling revelations" as a result of the Senate committee investigation. Ervin made the remark at a press conference in Brunswick, Maine, after delivering a speech at Bowdoin College.

The hearings are scheduled to begin this morning with Robert C. Odle Jr., former office manager for the re-election committee, as the opening witness.