

## Ehrlichman Tells When He Knew

New York

Former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman said in a televised interview yesterday that he "began to know about the coverup" of the Watergate scandal around the end of March.

"The so-called coverup really did not become evident to me until I got into this thing full steam the end of March this year," he said.

He was interviewed on the CBS show "60 Minutes," which was taped in Washington Thursday night.

Ehrlichman said in a sworn statement a month ago that President Nixon had him take over the White House investigation of the scandal in late March after Mr. Nixon became convinced the man who had been handling it, John W. Dean III, was involved in the scandal "up to his eyebrows."

"That's when I began to know about the coverup," Ehrlichman told a television

interviewer. "I didn't understand the full dimensions of it until about the middle of April, something of that kind."

In response to a question about whether former Attorney General John N. Mitchell was "going to be the fall guy" in the episode, Ehrlichman said: "I don't—I don't know. I don't know of any evidence, first hand, that involves Mr. Mitchell."

Presidential counsel J. Fred Buzhardt submitted a memo to the Senate Watergate Committee Wednesday — later renounced as not a "White House position" — describing Dean as the "principal author" of the Watergate scandal and Mitchell as his "patron," accusing both of plotting the bugging and its coverup.

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