

Ehrlichman's

Advice to Youth

Washington

John D. Ehrlichman ended five days of testimony before the Senate Watergate committee yesterday as he had begun last Tuesday: by insisting that neither he nor the President was involved in any aspect of the Watergate coverup.

After the committee had finished its questioning, Ehrlichman read a prepared statement reaffirming his support of President Nixon.

Mr. Nixon's former chief domestic adviser declared that he had spent all his time since he resigned April 30 preparing for his testimony before the committee.

GOALS

He had two objectives, he said, that he hoped he had met in the more than 30 hours at the witness table.

The first was to establish his innocence of the accusations that had been made against him by several of his former colleagues in the White House.

The second objective, he said, was to "raise a voice for the President — to be his advocate."

"I do not apologize for my loyalty to the President," he stated.

ADVICE

Then, Ehrlichman changed his manner from one of a combative witness to that of a fatherly adviser.

He recalled that Gordon C. Strachan, a 30-year-old former White House aide, had told the committee last Monday that he was so distraught at having been snared in the Watergate web that he would advise other young people to "stay away" from jobs in the government.

Politics, Ehrlichman declared, is only as honest as the people involved in it, and he said that his advice to the young would be different from Strachan's.

"I hope they do come and

test their ideas and convictions in this market place," he declared. "I hope they come here and do better."

CAUTION

But Ehrlichman, who is 48, added a note of caution to his advice.

There are many in Wash-

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ington, he said, who scoff at such qualities as patriotism and sense of family, and young people who go to work for the President should "come here with your eyes open."

But there are also good men, he said, men whose values are the same as his. "Don't stay away. Come. Join them and do it better," he advised.

DEAN

As he had throughout his testimony, Ehrlichman repeatedly contradicted points made by other witnesses, particularly those of John W. Dean III, the discharged presidential counsel.

And he pictured Dean

sight, he's going to have to have some pretty good reason why he didn't."

Ehrlichman also disputed once more the testimony of Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's personal attorney.

He said that he had never given Kalmbach personal assurances that there was nothing improper about raising money for the Watergate defendants. He also denied that Kalmbach had ever told him anything specific about his fund-raising efforts, such as how much was raised or from whom.

Ehrlichman also repeated his statement that while he had known immediately about the 1971 burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychoanalyst

once more as the linchpin in the Watergate scandal — a once-trusted staff member who time and time again misled the President and his closest advisers.

Ehrlichman denied what Dean had claimed: that he had told Dean to "deep six" politically sensitive documents that were taken from the safe of E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the Watergate conspirators.

He swore that he had not, as Dean testified, asked Mr. Nixon about granting executive clemency for Hunt.

There were further denials: that Dean had told him about strategy meetings to plan the perjured testimony of the deputy campaign director, Jeb Stuart Magru-

der; that he had heard a transcript of a conversation between Hunt and Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to the President, and that he had seen a hand-written note from Dean outlining the officials who, Dean thought, might be indicted in the Watergate case.

BELIEF

After he left the Senate caucus room, Ehrlichman was asked by reporters whether he thought he could be indicted. He answered:

"I see no reason why I should be indicted. I think that the prosecutor has a real political problem here. With all this hoopla on television and so on, if he doesn't indict everybody in

by White House agents, he had not told the President about it.

But, for the first time, he was asked yesterday why he had not done so.

"It was an event that had occurred," Ehrlichman said. "There was nothing the President could do about it. I just made the judgment it would unnecessarily tax his attention."

But Ehrlichman insisted that, while it was part of his job to filter material from the President, he had never lied to Mr. Nixon.

He said that Mr. Nixon had never asked him to try to find out how thousands of dollars of the President's campaign funds were found

on the men arrested in the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972.

In February or early March this year, Ehrlichman testified, the President told him to stay away from Watergate matters so that he could devote his attention to his job as domestic affairs adviser.

Eight different times between last September and the end of March, Mr. Nixon asked his aides to prepare a definitive written report on the Watergate situation, but none was ever written, Ehrlichman declared. He was not asked and did not describe what the President's reaction was to this.

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