



John Ehrlichman met the media outside his Lake Washington home in Seattle

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SFChronicle

AUG 14 1973

Ehrlichman Takes Whack At the Senate Hearings

Seattle

John D. Ehrlichman charged yesterday that the work of the Senate Watergate committee was "destructive."

In a news conference on the patio of his sprawling, yellow-frame house on the eastern shore of Lake Washington, the former assistant to the President for domestic affairs declared that the committee members have forged ahead with "what they consider to be in the national interest" even though the inquiry may violate "the rights of individuals."

Ehrlichman, who resigned from the Administration April 30 along with H. R. Haldeman, White House

chief of staff, and John W. Dean III, the counsel to the President, drove across the country with his family after his five-day appearance before the committee. The Ehrlichmans are now leasing the attractive lakeside home they once owned here.

Asked how he thought the Administration had fared in the first phase of the Watergate hearings, which ended last Tuesday, Ehrlichman said he felt that all the evidence was not in yet.

He noted that Charles W. Colson, a former White House political adviser, would not be called as a witness until the hearings are resumed.

Although his easy manner

yesterday was in sharp contrast to the combativeness that marked much of his testimony in Washington, he allowed himself a barbed dig at the committee on the delay in Colson's appearance.

Declaring that the committee had voted on "partisan" lines in an executive session to postpone Colson's testimony, he said he interpreted their action to mean that "the administration had too much initiative after Bob (Mr. Haldeman) and I testified."

On another matter, he was asked why he thought Richard G. Kleindienst, the former attorney general, Henry Peterson, and assistant attorney general, and

L. Patrick Gray, the former acting director of the FBI, had all testified they had received no orders to report directly to the President even though Mr. Nixon has said in a nationally televised speech April 30 that he had taken personal charge of the Watergate inquiry on March 21 and had given such instructions to those responsible for the investigation.

Ehrlichman said he had called Kleindienst on March 28 and had told him he was to report any new findings in the case directly to the President. He said he "assumed" the attorney general had passed on those instructions to Gray and Peterson.

New York Times