

WXPOST SEP 29 1973

Ehrlichman

Analyzed

Oregon Ban

SEATTLE, Sept. 28 (AP)—Oregon's new electric sign blackout has apparently shed some light on the future of former presidential adviser John Ehrlichman.

Lawyer Ehrlichman, who specialized in zoning and property law here before joining President Nixon's staff, was hired by a Midwest sign manufacturer to investigate the new Oregon outside-lighting ban.

John K. Lamb of Cincinnati said Thursday he had hired Ehrlichman, "a long-time friend," to check into the Oregon situation.

"I asked him to inquire as to what the true situation was because the news reports here were so confusing that I didn't know what was happening," said Lamb.

And Lamb says Ehrlichman told him "the situation wasn't nearly as bad as it had been depicted" and he anticipated no further use of Ehrlichman's services. The only thing still to be settled, said Lamb, is Ehrlichman's fee. "We didn't discuss the fee, and I haven't gotten the bill."

Ehrlichman hasn't been available to comment on the matter, which first surfaced when Oregon Gov. Tom McCall told newsmen Ehrlichman had called McCall's office to inquire about the outside-lighting ban.

Until McCall revealed the phone call, it was not known whether Ehrlichman had resumed his law practice or was involved in any form of business.

The Oregon commercial lighting ban was imposed by McCall Sunday at the start of the Western Governors' Conference in Glendon Beach, Ore., which focused on the energy crisis in the Pacific Northwest. Dry weather has cut power yields in the Northwest, which depends greatly on hydroelectric power.