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H. R. Haldeman, left, conferring with Z. Wayne Griffin, host, during luncheon at Perino's in Los Angeles. Chatting with members of Mr. Haldeman's family are Herbert G. Klein and Robert H. Finch, right, ex-Administration officials.

Haldeman Feted at 'Welcome Home Bob' Luncheon

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LOS ANGELES, Nov. 5 —

Over 70 of Los Angeles's leading citizens were on hand today to pay tribute, at a "Welcome Home Bob" luncheon, to an old friend who is moving back to his home town.

"Bob" is President Nixon's former chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman, who is moving to a "little four-bedroom house" in Hancock Park, a residential area near downtown Los Angeles where many of the city's oldest families live.

Previously, the Haldemans had been living 50 miles south of Los Angeles, in Newport Beach, a wealthy beach town in conservative Orange County where Mr. Haldeman moved to shortly after the Watergate affair became a national scandal.

The noontime luncheon was held behind closed doors at Perinos, one of Los Angeles's finest restaurants. The host

was Z. Wayne Griffin, a longtime civic leader who said he has been a friend of the Haldeman family for over 40 years. Mr. Griffin said the "men only" luncheon was to pay tribute to the entire Haldeman family in a nonpartisan "atmosphere of conviviality."

"The Haldemans are an example of what a good American family can be—well-motivated, well-mannered, well-disciplined. Good people," Mr. Griffin said.

Mr. Haldeman, wearing a light gray suit, red, yellow and blue rep necktie, and the familiar American flag lapel pin, drove up to the restaurant alone in a dark green Ford station wagon. Minutes later, his oldest son Harry H. Haldeman, known as Hank, a third-year political science student at the University of California at Los Angeles, Mr. Haldeman's alma mater, arrived in a battered red Datsun sports car.

Hank, with wire-rimmed

glasses and hair that hung several inches below his shoulders, reaffirmed the agreement "made in jest" with his father that he would get a crewcut if his father's hair grew to shoulder-length.

Among the invited luncheon guests, who dined on roast beef, cottage fried potatoes and apple slices were Robert H. Finch, former Health, Education and Welfare Secretary; Herbert G. Klein, former Director of Communications for President Nixon; Franklin Murphy, president of The Times-Mirror Publishing Company; Charles Young, Chancellor of U.C.L.A., Los Angeles; and Justin Dart and Holmes Tuttle, businessmen and Republican fund-raisers.

Mr. Haldeman's wife, Jo, and his mother, Mrs. Betty Haldeman, also attended, but ate lunch separately in Perinos' main dining room.

After lunch, according to Peter, Hank's younger brother, Mr. Haldeman spoke to guests about "his [Mr. Haldeman's] version of Watergate," and the tapes and expressed a strong belief in the "President's prerogative" concerning Watergate matters. Asked what version of Watergate Mr. Haldeman told, Peter said, "the only version."

Mr. Haldeman also reportedly talked about "his hopes for the future" but would not give any hint to reporters what those plans are.