

KALMBACH VIEWED AS A KEY WITNESS

Nixon Lawyer Seen Ready
to Link Haldeman to Funds

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—

Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's personal lawyer, returned to the special Watergate prosecutor's office today to continue assisting lawyers there with the preparation of their case, according to a well-placed source.

The source characterized as crucial the testimony of Mr. Kalmbach, who pleaded guilty yesterday to two campaign-finance law violations, because he "sat at the foot of the throne" during much of the planning of Watergate and related operations.

There were reports today that Mr. Kalmbach was prepared to tell the prosecutors that H. R. Haldeman, Mr. Nixon's former chief of staff, organized the \$4-million "townhouse" project to provide campaign funds for Republican Congressional candidates in 1970.

It was in connection with the alleged mis-administration of this fund, under the old Federal Corrupt Practices Act, which was in force in 1970, that Mr. Kalmbach entered one of his guilty pleas. The Newport Beach, Calif., lawyer also admitted promising a better diplomatic post to J. Fife Symington Jr., then the United States Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, in return for a \$100,000 contribution to the 1970 fund.

The Washington Post said today that contributions from two other diplomats—Vincent De Roulet, the American representative in Jamaica, and Fred J. Russell, who later became the United States Ambassador to Denmark—also flowed into the "town house" fund.

Mr. De Roulet and a number of other American ambassadors contributed large sums to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign in 1972, according to campaign-finance documents released by the President's re-election committee.

Leon Jaworski, the Watergate prosecutor, is reportedly looking into the possibility that some or all of these contributions were made in return for promised appointments.