

Haldeman Says He Is Innocent

Angeles

H. R. (Bob) Haldeman said yesterday he is innocent of all Watergate coverup charges.

Haldeman, President Nixon's former chief of staff, called a news conference on his front lawn and predicted he will be vindicated of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury charges. He was indicted along with six other former administration and campaign officials last Friday.

"I'm not making any bargains," Haldeman said. "I'm totally innocent of those charges and I'm confident that will be established as the judicial process runs its course."

He said he has spoken to Mr. Nixon since the indictments were returned but would not disclose what they talked about.

He also mentioned that friends are talking of organizing a defense fund to pay Haldeman's legal bills.

"I have no regrets in any way that I did have the opportunity to serve in the Nixon administration," he said. "I will always consider my time with the Nixon administration the highlight of my life.

"I am completely proud and appreciative of the opportunity I had to work . . .

with a man I believe is one of the great presidents this country has had. Once the truth is known . . . any objective observer will agree with me about that," he said.

Tanned and smiling, the 47-year-old Haldeman was relaxed as he spoke with reporters, bristling only once when he was asked if his life had been affected by his public disgrace.

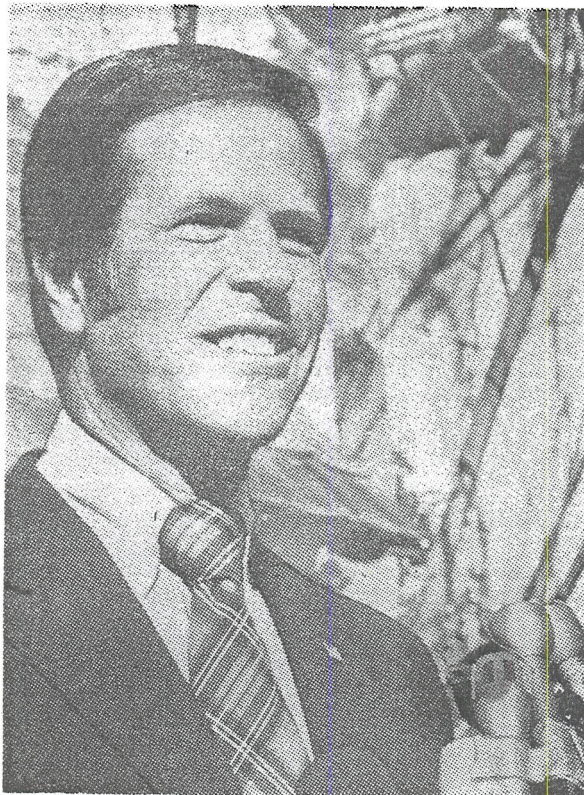
"I don't accept that there has been any public disgrace," he said. "I am certain that the American people abide by the American

tradition that any man is innocent until proven guilty. I have not been so proven and I do not anticipate that I will be."

As he spoke, Haldeman's wife leaned out a window of their Tudorstyle home and focused a movie camera on her husband, recording the moment as an addition to their extensive collection of home movies which Haldeman shot during his time in the Nixon administration. Haldeman said he has organized his film collection in chronological order and "it's a very interesting home movie."

Haldeman also referred to recent comments to the effect that he had fallen from power in the White House.

"I did not feel that at any time in the White House I exercised any power," he said. "I was a member of the staff. I was paid to hold that job and I believe I carried it out with dignity and honor.



UPI Telephoto

H. R. HALDEMAN AT HIS HOME 'I'm not making any bargains'

"I'm not bitter at all. I don't welcome being indicted, but I'm sure the judicial process will run its course. I am not concerned about the ultimate outcome."

Haldeman expressed gratitude to the many Americans he said had sent him good wishes and prayers. He said when he is recognized on the street he is frequently approached by persons offering support of his position.

Asked whether he believed anything wrong had been done in the Watergate events, Haldeman said, "I said that I've done nothing wrong. I will, of course, not comment on the actions of others . . . The question is not whether something was done wrong, it's who did it."

He said Watergate has caused some confusion in his life but has not greatly affected his home life. "I have a wonderful wife and four outstanding children and I think all of them understand what the situation is. In the long haul, all of us will have gained substantially."

Associated Press