

Haldeman Role in Envoy Deal Told

By Bob Woodward
and Carl Bernstein

Washington Post Staff Writers

Former presidential attorney Herbert W. Kalmbach has testified that an aide to then-White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman told him in 1970 that Haldeman had approved promising a European ambassadorship to a Maryland Republican in exchange for a \$100,000 campaign contribution, according to sources.

Kalmbach, a longtime fundraiser for President Nixon, said in testimony given to

Watergate prosecutors that he had been told of Haldeman's approval by top Haldeman aide Lawrence Higby, according to sources familiar with Kalmbach's still-secret testimony.

The sources said Kalmbach testified that he had asked Higby if a firm pledge of a European ambassadorship could be made to J. Fife Symington in exchange for Symington's \$100,000 contribution to the Republican party for the 1970 congressional elections.

When Higby got back in

touch with him, the sources said Kalmbach testified, Higby told Kalmbach that Haldeman had approved promising Symington, who was then ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, that he would be shifted to a more prestigious ambassador's post in Europe.

Kalmbach's testimony was not disputed by Higby, according to sources familiar with testimony made by Higby to the Watergate prosecutors. But these sources were unwilling to elaborate on Higby's versions of the events.

Higby, who now works in the Office of Management and Budget at the White House, said this week he would have no comment on the Symington ambassadorship pledge.

Haldeman could not be reached yesterday, and his lawyer, John J. Wilson, refused to comment on the reported Kalmbach testimony. Wilson said he had also instructed Haldeman not to talk to reporters.

Promising an ambassadorship in exchange for money or
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a campaign contribution is a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

Kalmbach pleaded guilty Feb. 25 to that misdemeanor charge in connection with the pledge made to Symington. In court that day, the Watergate prosecutors said Kalmbach made the promise to Symington at a Sept. 16, 1970, meeting in Los Angeles after Kalmbach had received approval to make the pledge from a White House aide. The aide's name has never been made public.

Kalmbach also pleaded guilty to the felony charge of violating the Corrupt Practices Act in his management of a \$4 million secret fund of Nixon's campaign money for use by Republican congressional candidates in 1970. Kalmbach was later sentenced to serve six to 18 months in prison and fined \$10,000.

The investigation into the sale of the ambassadorship is continuing and no decision has been made by Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski on whether to bring additional charges in the case, sources said.

Symington, who resigned his Trinidad post for what he

said were personal reasons in November, 1971, has never received an appointment to a European ambassadorship.

Nevertheless, Symington did make the promised \$100,000 contribution in two separate \$50,000 installments, the first in 1970 for the Republican congressional campaigns and the second for the 1972 Nixon-re-election campaign.

According to statements made in court by the Watergate prosecutors, Kalmbach offered the money back to Symington but Symington has never accepted it.

The U.S. senators have said that Symington approached them for assistance in obtaining a European ambassadorship. The overtures were reported by Maryland Republican Sens. J. Glenn Beall and Charles McC. Mathias and Missouri Democrat Sen. Stuart Symington, a first cousin of Fife Symington.

In addition to Kalmbach's reported testimony about the promise made to Symington for his 1970 contribution, informed sources have said that Haldeman, while the President's No. 1 aide in the White House, acted as overseer of the secret 1970 campaign fund that Kalmbach managed.

Haldeman resigned as White House chief of staff on April 30, 1973, and has since been indicted in the Watergate cover-up case. He pleaded innocent and is awaiting trial.

Kalmbach, who pledged complete cooperation to the

Watergate prosecutors when he pleaded guilty in February, has since been reported to have told the prosecutors all about the secret campaign funds he managed, as well as about other errands he performed for the President.