

And Now, the Post-Nixon Book Flood

By PETER KIHSS

More than a dozen Nixon Administration figures are involved in various stages of book projects, ranging from lofty appraisals to confessional — and even perhaps evangelical — outpourings.

Book publishing circles here have disclosed receipt of approaches on behalf of H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, Charles W. Colson and Donald H. Segretti. One project by John W. Dean 3d has been withdrawn.

Books have been scheduled by Elliot L. Richardson, Clark Mollenhoff, William E. Safire, E. Howard Hunt Jr. and, as an expanded foreign policy compilation, Henry A. Kissinger. One memoir under way is by Herbert G. Klein. Already out are Watergate volumes by Jeb Stuart Magruder and James W. McCord Jr., the latter acting as his own publisher.

Mr. Haldeman had an earlier eight-page outline turned down by a number of publishers. This week former President Nixon's top aide made a new agreement with Scott Meredith as literary agent.

Mr. Meredith said he had urged Mr. Haldeman to whet interest in the projected "INSIDE — The Nixon White House" by a number of points they had discussed that were not cited earlier.

Story About Connally

One, for instance, he said, was a story that John B. Connally, former Texas Governor, was Mr. Nixon's first choice for Vice President after Spiro T. Agnew resigned, before Gerald F. Ford was nominated.

Other such "inside" angles would contend that Secretary of State Kissinger's emotional Salzburg outburst about resigning was only one of a series, and that Martha Mitchell was the "real reason" that her husband, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, left the Nixon circle.

On the Watergate break-in at Democratic national headquarters, Mr. Meredith said that Mr. Haldeman had told him his personal knowledge was limited and voiced faith he would be acquitted on pending conspiracy charges.

But he said that Mr. Haldeman, expecting trials to be completed, proposed to reconstruct the story and to challenge and "demolish" what he considered to be wrong "ex post facto" theories by the media linking a variety of events as "Watergate-related."

The earlier outline cited by various publishers had started with a prologue in which Mr. Haldeman pictured himself as disturbed when Mr. Dean on March 21, 1973, described to him and Mr. Nixon the Watergate "threat to the Presidency."

Then, Mr. Haldeman wrote, his mind recalled another potential threat — back in Peking on Feb. 21, 1973, when Dwight L. Chapin, tour manager, burst in to tell him "the President is gone."

Nixon Figures Involved in Book Projects

Books offered to publishers



H. R. Haldeman



John D. Ehrlichman



Charles W. Colson



Donald Segretti



John W. Dean 3d

Withdrawn

Privately printed



James W. McCord Jr.

Due for publication



Elliot L. Richardson



William Safire



Clark R. Mollenhoff

Contemplated



Herbert G. Klein



E. Howard Hunt Jr.



Henry A. Kissinger

Went to Visit Mao

Mr. Nixon, believed to be taking an afternoon nap, had vanished with Mr. Kissinger and one Secret Service agent. He was gone to parts unknown for an hour and a half — taken away by Premier Chou En-lai to visit, it turned out, Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Mr. Ehrlichman, who was President Nixon's chief domestic counselor, was reported to have expressed interest in a book project although apparently at an extremely early stage.

He was understood to have approached a New York lawyer, who has handled other book deals, about its potential. His defense counsel, Andrew Hall, said in Miami, however, that he did not know about Mr. Ehrlichman's writing plans; Mr. Ehrlichman

did not respond to a message in Seattle.

Various publishers said they expected to receive an outline in the next week or so of a projected manuscript by Mr. Colson. The former so-called "tough guy" White House special counsel has just started one of three years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to attempted obstruction of justice in the Pentagon papers trial of Daniel Ellsberg.

Mr. Colson has said that he experienced a religious conversion and found "a great inner serenity, really a new life" through Jesus Christ last year.

The outline is to come from Harold Matson, as Mr. Colson's literary agent. Mr. Matson said, "There is a plan for him to write a book, and if he does, I'd handle it."

Withholds Details

Mr. Matson preferred to withhold details at this point. He said the Colson book would "not necessarily" be a memoir. Asked if it might be "evangelistic," he said that

view would be "not impossible."

r. Segretti, a Nixon re-election aide, served four months and three weeks in prison after pleading guilty of distributing fraudulent material—the so-called "dirty tricks" aspect of the 1972 campaign against potential Democratic candidates for President. His memoirs are being offered by r. Meredith.

Mr. Dean, former White House counsel, "decided not to go ahead with his book" after considerable discussion on terms last spring with aFrrar, Straus & Giroux, according to that house's president, Roger Straus.

'An Ombudsman's Report'

Mr. Richardson, who resigned as Attorney General in disagreement with Mr. Nixon, agreed on the basis of an 82-page outline for a book to be published in the fall of 1975 by Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

Tom Wallace, editor in chief, said this was planned as "a post-Watergate look at American politics and government"—how they work,

and why sometimes they don't.

Mr. Mollenhoff's "Game Plan: An Ombudsman's Report on the Nixon Years" in which the newsman started as a White House aide has been delayed to the winter of 1975-6 by W. W. Norton & Co.

Norton is bringing out on Oct. 28 a new edition of "American Foreign Policy," essays by Secretary Kissinger first issued in 1969, but now including key statements since then.

Mr. Safire, who was a Nixon writer, has a 250,000-word book, "A Hurry to Be Great," now sold to Doubleday and Co. for January publication for a \$10,000 advance—while still in arbitration over an earlier \$250,000 deal with William Morrow & Co.

Hunt Book is Due

The autobiography of Mr. Hunt, a former White House aide who served 10 month's imprisonment for the Watergate burglary, is being published in November by G. P. Putnam's Sons under the current title "Undercover"—formerly "Against All Enemies."

Mr. Klein, Mr. Nixon's former director of communications, now vice president of Metromedia, said in Los Angeles that several publishers had approached him, and he had worked on an outline and research.

Mr. Magruder's "An American Life," published by Atheneum, describes the road that led him to become Mr. Nixon's re-election deputy director—and now an imprisoned Watergate conspirator, serving 10 months to four years.

Mr. McCord, the former re-election campaign security director, appealing a Watergate burglary sentence, has published his 330-page paperback book, "A Piece of Tape," himself at \$3.95 as Washington Media Services, Maryland National Center, Rockville, Md. 20850.

Most intriguing to publishers are Mr. Nixon's own writing plans. In his "Six Crises," Mr. Nixon acknowledged Alvin Moscow "for his skilled professional services in directing research and organizing material."

Mr. Moscow is finishing a 1,000-page manuscript on the five Rockefeller brothers—a six-year effort—for Doubleday publication next spring.