

SFChronicle

Talk of Earlier Pardon Idea

New York

Richard Nixon promised at the time of their resignations in 1973 to pardon former aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, then refused at the last minute to take the action, Time magazine reported yesterday.

"You don't have anything to worry about. I'll take care of you," Time quoted Mr. Nixon as telling Haldeman and Ehrlichman on April 29, 1973.

The promise came just hours before Mr. Nixon persuaded the two men to resign in the face of mounting Watergate charges, the magazine said.

Both men approached Mr. Nixon with pleas for pardons just before he resigned August 8, but were rebuffed, Time said. (A. 19)

Time quoted one associate of the two former presiden-

tial aides as saying, "It's possible that Nixon turned his back on Haldeman and Ehrlichman because his own pardon deal was set and he didn't want to queer it by pardoning them at the last minute."

President Ford pardoned Mr. Nixon last September 8.

Haldeman and Ehrlichman face trial October 1.

Haldeman, 47, a former chief of staff to Mr. Nixon, was indicted on one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice, one count of obstruction of justice and three counts of perjury.

The 49-year-old Ehrlichman, Mr. Nixon's former domestic counselor, was indicted on one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice, one count of obstruction of justice, one count of lying to FBI agents and two counts of lying to a grand jury.

Associated Press