MAR 2 9 1975

Opera Picketed Over Ehrlichman's Wife

Seattle

The Seattle Symphony Orchestra office was picketed Thursday by underemployed persons protesting the hiring of Mrs. John Ehrlichman with public funds.

Mrs. Ehrlichman, wife of the former domestic affairs advisor to Richard Nixon, has a \$10,000-a-year job paid for by the Federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act.

"I've been looking for a job for two months," said Carol Hooker of Bellevue. "I feel angry that the taxpayers are paying for the trial and the disbarment proceedings and everything else, and I'm damned if I'm going to help put groceries on their table."

John Graham, development director for the symphony, responded that "We're not going to visit the sins of the husband onto the wife. I'm not in a position to go into Mrs. Ehrlichman's finances. It may be that the way the CETA is drafted is all wrong because it doesn't take family assets into account. But my job was to find, as soon as possible, a qualified person."

Another picketer, Mike Kearney said, "I'm not eligible for CETA because I have a part-time job. I have a wife and two kids and I need a job. So do a lot of other people."

The director of the King-Snohomish county Manpower Consortium said the city is reviewing Mrs. Ehrlichman's eligibility carefully.

"If she is eligible under the act and she is denied the job, it could be a violation of her rights," he said.

United Press