Ehrlichman Seeks Freedom

Since Nixon Did Not Testify

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (AP)

John D. Ehrlichman, former

White House aide, has asked
the United States Court of Appeals to overthrow his conviction in the Watergate cover-up
case because former President
Richard M. Nixon did not testify at his trial.

Mr. Nixon was in a hospital in California with phlebitis and pneumonia while Mr. Ehrlichman's trial was taking place last December, and court-appointed doctors said he could not testify for weeks, by which time the trial was over.

"Never before has a single witness been so central a figure in a trial as was Richard M. Nixon in this case," Mr. Ehrlichman's attorneys told the court yesterday. Because Mr. Nixon did not testify, they said, Mr. Ehrlichman was forced to take the witness stand in his own behalf.