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Ehrlichman on the Politics of Drugs

Washington

Convicted Watergate conspirator John Ehrlichman [in testimony before Senate permanent investigations subcommittee] said yesterday Nixon administration drives against drug pushers were inefficient and done partly for "political mileage."

In [his] congressional testimony, the bearded former White House aide also scoffed at the crime-busting image of the FBI and questioned whether the bureau is "any good at anything."

"We have the Efrem Zimbalist Jr. image of the FBI, that kind of stainless steel image," he said in a reference to the star of a television series.

"Before we demand that the FBI get involved (in drug enforcement) we ought to question whether any good can come from it, indeed whether it's any good at anything.

"I don't think the FBI has lived up to its capacity for many, many years."

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United Press