

Ehrlichman Gives 5-Hour Testimony

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Former top White House aide John D. Ehrlichman testified before the federal grand jury investigating the Watergate affair for more than five hours yesterday.

While Ehrlichman testified, former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman—once the most powerful aide in the White House—sat outside the grand jury room “just twiddling his thumbs,” according to his lawyer, John J. Wilson.

Making their first known appearance since the investigation was revived at the U.S. District Courthouse here at about 8:30 a.m., Haldeman and Ehrlichman waited until about 11 a.m. to talk to the three-man prosecution team. After a two-hour conference with the prosecutors, Ehrlichman was called first before the grand jury. His testimony continued, interrupted by breaks, for more than five hours.

Ehrlichman and Haldeman are both scheduled to talk today to the staff of the Senate select committee investigating the Watergate.

Wilson, who talked to reporters occasionally throughout the afternoon, said that Ehrlichman had not invoked the Fifth Amendment in response to any questions asked before the grand jury. Wilson declined to say, however, whether Ehrlichman was answering all questions fully.

Ehrlichman emerged from the grand jury at 7:15 p.m., after answering questions for about five hours and 45 minutes. He declined to discuss his testimony. When asked if he had invoked the Fifth Amendment, Ehrlichman replied, “Gracious, no. I wouldn’t take the Fifth Amendment under any circumstances.”

Ehrlichman and Haldeman both have been implicated in the attempt to cover up the Watergate affair after five men were arrested inside the Democratic National Committee’s headquarters on June 17. The grand jury also is understood to be investigating what role either of them had in the bugging and burglary of the Democrats’ headquarters.

Haldeman waited in a small conference room adjacent to the grand jury room while Ehrlichman testified. Asked what Haldeman was doing while he waited, Wilson said, “The same thing I’m doing—sitting on my tail—He’s sitting back there just twiddling his thumbs.”

See PROBE, A12, Col. 1

PROBE From A1

It was not immediately clear whether prosecutors sought Haldeman before the grand jury after Ehrlichman concluded. Ehrlichman flew with Wilson in a White House car.

Although President Nixon announced that he had accepted the resignations of Haldeman and Ehrlichman on Monday, Ehrlichman told reporters, “I’m still working. I’m still on the payroll. I agreed to an orderly transition.”

The only comment that Ehrlichman would make on his testimony was to tell reporters, “I think we made a lot of progress.”

In a related development, The Washington Evening Star-News reported that the lawyers for former White House counsel John Dean III are negotiating with the prosecution in an attempt to procure immunity for Dean.

Dean, who was fired by President Nixon on Monday, reportedly told Mr. Nixon in March that Dean, Ehrlichman and Haldeman would have to reveal the truth about the Watergate affair and face the possibility of going to jail “to save the presidency.” Dean is reportedly ready to give testimony—in return for immunity—that would implicate Haldeman and Ehrlichman in the scandal.

At the same time, the prosecution reportedly has been told by former deputy Nixon campaign manager Jeb Stuart Magruder that Dean and former Attorney Gener-

al John N. Mitchell helped plan and approved the bugging. Mitchell has denied that he approved the bugging.

Magruder, according to a story carried by the Westinghouse Broadcasting Co., met five hours Monday night with the prosecutors at his lawyer’s office. According to Westinghouse, Magruder said after the meeting that he expects to go to jail for “nine months.” Magruder, who testified before the grand jury three times during its initial investigation, was recalled Wednesday to testify for the first time since the grand jury revived its inquiry on March 26.

In another related matter, Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica granted a pro-

secution motion to forward 37 pages of grand jury testimony given Wednesday by convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. to U.S. District Judge W. Matt Byrne Jr., the presiding judge in the trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr.

After the brief hearing, Sirica signed an order releasing the testimony to Byrne, who had instructed the prosecutor in the Ellsberg (Pentagon papers) trial to investigate a charge—confirmed by Ehrlichman in an interview Friday with the FBI—that Hunt and convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy broke into the office of Ellsberg’s psychiatrist on Sept. 3, 1971.

Liddy, who says he has

now lost 30 pounds as the result of a self-imposed 900 calorie-a-day diet, appeared in court briefly today before Sirica.

Sirica denied a motion by one of Liddy’s lawyers, Thomas Kennelly, to withdraw as counsel on the grounds that Liddy has refused to take his advice. Liddy then met for about 20 minutes with prosecutors, who urged him again to cooperate by testifying before the grand jury.

Liddy, who is serving eight months for contempt of court because of his refusal to testify in addition to the six-year, eight month term he got for the conspiracy, again refused to cooperate, according to reliable sources.