# Haldeman's Role Viewed As Reduced by Watergate

## #126/73 By JOHN HERBERS Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 25-|He said that the aides involved shake-up in the staff, including subordinates. resignations, was being planned.

have played a role in the crime. involved. He has hired a lawyer to defend him in the case.

the regular morning meetings would be major changes. of top aides that Mr. Haldeman not been resumed.

Mr. Ziegler denied that this the second most influential man development had been connect-

H. R. Haldeman, who once ran -Henry A. Kissinger, George the Nixon White House with P. Shultz, John D. Ehrlichman, stern efficiency, appeared today Roy L. Ash and others - felt to have lost much of his power that their time could be better as reports mounted that a spent in meetings with their

Other sources, however, Mr. Haldeman has been re-pointed out that the breakoff ported to be under investiga- of what had become an instition by the grand jury looking tution at the White House, into the burglary and bugging with Mr. Haldeman in charge, of Democratic headquarters in coincided with the more recent the Watergate building last explosive developments in the summer and in alleged attempts Watergate case and indicated to protect some who might|strongly that Watergate was

There was no clear indication today as to when staff changes Ronald L. Ziegler, the White might be forthcoming, but there House press secretary, dis-were continuing reports from closed under questioning that White House sources that there

As chief of staff and the man had conducted for more than who regulated the flow of peofour years were broken off ple and information into the about three weeks ago and had President's office, Mr. Haldeman had long been considered

ed with the Watergate case. Continued on Page 34, Column 4

in the White House.

There were other indications rapidly declining.

President Nixon, in his hancently, has been turning not to not clear, even to some on the Mr. Haldeman but to Leonard inside, how the lines of author-Garment, special consultant to ity have been changed. Mr. the President, who has dealt Ziegler worked closely with the with minority matters and spe- President during his Florida cial projects but who was not weekend on matters not related Washington for special duty if in the first rank of White House to his duties as press secretary. the President asked him. aides.

## Role as Counsel Reported

Mr. Garment, according to trip. White House sources, has been acting as Mr. Nixon's counsel and adviser in the Watergate

tered the picture as enjoying he was asked if some staff House assistants to do investi-Mr. Nixon's confidence in the members had undergone a gative work; he has been con-Watergate matter during the "change in functions," he would ferring regularly with Assist-last few days is Patrick J. only say, "I am not prepared ant Attorney General Henry E. Buchanan, special consultant to to break down what I said." He Petersen, who is in charge of the President, who spent a day left open the possibility of an prosecuting the case; he has and a half with Mr. Nixon in imminent staff shake-up. Key Biscayne last weekend. Mr. There have been reports that hired by Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Haldeman, for the first time former Secretary of Defense Ehrlichman. Mr. Wilson visited

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3 turning for advice to some of Mr. Laird was visiting his ill questions as to whether the his earlier, pre-Presidential sup-mother today, he said that he President, by overseeing the porters who have not been im-had been drafted four years Watergate investigation, might that Mr. Haldeman's power was plicated in the Watergate af- ago to help take the United be influencing the outcome of fair.

The case has so shaken the a voluntary Army and "I can-gone outside the Government dling of the Watergate case re-White House staff that it was not be drafted again."

He said this was because he

### Shake-Up Viewed as Possible

"There is no change in the

anyone could remember, did not make the trip. Mr. Nixon thus seemed to be staff. In Marshfield, Wis., where Mr. Ziegler would not answer

States out of Vietnam and build the case and why he had not

However, Wisconsin Republi-

can leaders close to Mr. Laird said that they believed he could persuaded to return to be

Meantime, reports from the White House indicated that the was the only senior White White House indicated that the House aide to have made the President was spending most of his time on the Watergate case and had become the chief investigator of the case.

"He is very much concentratmatter during the last few days. status of the White House ing on this matter," Mr. Ziegler Another aide who has en-staff," he said today. But when said. He has assigned White met with John Wilson, a lawyer

to obtain a special prosecutor.