

'Night With H. R. Haldeman' Set at Acapulco Conference

By Richard Bergholz
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ACAPULCO, April 1—"A Night With H. R. Haldeman" is the alluring title of the first semi-public appearance today of the former White House chief of staff since his indictment in the Watergate scandal.

The deposed top aide to President Nixon came out of seclusion to attend a seminar conducted by a select group of wealthy young businessmen called the Young Presidents Organization.

Haldeman, one of many prominent figures in business and government on the seminar schedule, said he would not discuss Watergate or anything indirectly related to Watergate.

"That's all right," responded one YPO leader. "Half the people here simply want to see what he looks like and how he handles himself."

Haldeman said he is under court order not to discuss his indictment or events leading up to it. He said he came here with the understanding no journalists would be permitted to hear him.

Actually, his initial performance for the more than 500 businessmen and their wives was to be mainly a colloquy with Jack Linkletter, a YPO member and son of entertainer Art Linkletter.

Tuesday, Haldeman is scheduled to undergo questioning from a four-man panel of businessmen. For Thursday he

scheduled a session intriguingly billed as "Personal Reminiscences," but later changed the title to "Crisis Management."

In any case, Haldeman told reporters, his principal topic is how the White House was organized under President Nixon and his rebuttal to published criticism of the shortcomings in the way he directed the White House staff.

His brother, A. Thomas Haldeman, a Los Angeles heating and ventilating company executive, is a YPO member. So are a number of Haldeman's friends from Southern California and elsewhere.

Members must have become president or chief executive officer of a firm doing \$2 million a year in gross sales and having at least 50 employees before turning 40. There are 2,774 members in the United States and 41 other countries.

It is a select group and Haldeman's presence here is a tribute to its power to pull important guest speakers. The Rev. Jesse Jackson of Chicago is the only black speaker.

Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar and Army Secretary Howard Calloway represent the Nixon administration. Former commerce secretary Pete Peterson is also on hand. So are a host of experts from various fields of business, art and sports.

California Gov. Ronald Reagan keynoted the opening session with a ringing defense of the free enterprise system.

"There are too many people in government today that you wouldn't hire in your business," he said. Big government bureaucracy and partisan ideologies are ganging up on the businessman, and "you must fight back," he added.

"The hierarchy of labor already has announced plans to elect a veto-proof Congress this year," Reagan said, and warned businessmen that this could lead to drastic changes in tax laws now benefitting business and industry.

Answering questions from a panel of YPO members, Reagan defended his administration in Sacramento, never mentioned President Nixon by name and disagreed with those who contend that the President should resign.