

Evans Mook

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that both his arrogance and his isolation from political reality have survived his fall from power.

Haldeman was obviously seeking solace from the man sitting next to him, whom he had never met before. Instead Haldeman received a judicious review of the Watergate scandals, summed up with the remark that the courts had been too lenient in some of the sentences imposed.

Haldeman listened, then tried to argue his seatmate into a different position, playing heavily on the alleged national security issue as the underlying cause of the scandals. But he could not budge the man beside him.

So, after a few minutes, Haldeman exploded: "This is the first time I have talked to someone who isn't supportive of my position and the President's." He then reached under the seat in front of him for his briefcase, muttered good-bye and moved across the aisle.

A footnote: Lawrence Higby, Haldeman's top sergeant in his glory days at the White House, is moving back up in the official presidential family. Exiled for a long period to a cubbyhole in the Executive Office Building after Mr. Nixon was forced to fire Haldeman, Higby is now top aide to Fred Malek, No 2 man in the Office of Management and Budget. What's more, Higby was summoned to San Clemente last week to sit at the highest level in policy conferences.

Riding in a first-class seat on a Los Angeles-Washington flight July 7, H. R. Haldeman, President Nixon's former chief of staff, got into a conversation with his seatmate which revealed