

*Parade
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LEGAL AID FOR HALDEMAN

Z. Wayne
Griffin,
67, a
veteran

Hollywood character who used to be the musical director of the Pasadena Playhouse, a radio writer, a talent agent, and finally a film producer, has solicited 1200 business executives to contribute to a legal defense fund for Harry R. "Bob" Haldeman, chief of staff in Nixon's Watergated Administration.

Griffin claims to be an old family friend of the Haldemans who supported Nixon from 1956 onward.

Although the Haldeman family is reputedly a wealthy one—air-conditioning and at one time Chrysler-car-agency people—it is estimated that to defend Haldeman on charges of obstructing justice in the Watergate scandal will cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

In his letter of solicitation, retired producer Griffin writes: "...Bob's ultimate innocence will have to be determined by the judicial process. In the meantime, however, he is entitled to the presumption of innocence and to the very best possible legal defense."

Since Nixon's resignation, Haldeman has been accused by many White House observers of having contributed to his boss' fall by isolating him, abusing power, refusing to permit dissent, and surrounding himself with arrogant, ruthless, untruthful, paranoid, subservient aides.

Had Haldeman been an official of the Committee to Re-Elect the President like John Mitchell and Maurice Stans, his legal fees would be taken care of by the committee, which still has in excess of \$2 million for that purpose. Unfortunately he was not. Now he must pay his own defense costs and rely upon the charity of others to help. The same thing is true of his one-time assistant and buddy—no longer, John Ehrlichman.