

Haldeman: Nixon Considered

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H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, said President Nixon talked with him about the possibility of getting Spiro T. Agnew to resign as Vice President before the 1972 election and appointing John B. Connally to replace him.

Haldeman said Nixon thought Connally, a former Treasury Secretary, would make a better Vice President than Agnew, and that Agnew was frustrated in his job and had an interest in moving on

to other things—"possibly in becoming a television commentator.

In a CBS television interview, Haldeman said the discussions about dropping Agnew took place long before the federal grand jury investigation that led to Agnew's forced resignation just before pleading no contest to one count of income tax evasion.

He said the matter was discussed with Connally, now awaiting trial on bribery charges. But in the interview with Mike Wallace, Haldeman

was not asked whether Nixon aides ever discussed it with Agnew.

The decision to retain Agnew as Vice President, Haldeman said, was made because "on balance of all the factors," that was "the ultimate wisdom."

CBS reportedly paid Haldeman \$25,000 for the interview. One part was broadcast last Sunday. A transcript of the second part, to be broadcast at 6 p.m. today on WTOP, was made public yesterday.

Haldeman is appealing his

conviction for conspiracy, perjury and obstruction of justice in connection with the cover-up of the Watergate break-in.

In the interview, Haldeman said that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger "had a part" in the wiretapping of reporters and some White House aides to stop news leaks, but he did not accuse Kissinger of requesting the wiretaps.

Haldeman also said that, except for his part in the wiretapping, Kissinger "had no degree of involvement... (in)

Ousting Agnew in '72

the Watergate cover-up."

Haldeman said that while Kissinger was Nixon's top White House aide on foreign policy he was "not the shot-caller" about policy toward the Middle East because "he was Jewish."

He said that "was a conscious decision . . . on both his and the President's part." There was "the feeling," Haldeman explained, "that when we were taking the moves we were, that it would not be wise to be doing it . . . under the direction of

a Jewish adviser."

Haldeman portrayed Kissinger as a highly emotional man who threatened to quit "quite a few times" over major and minor issues.

In the interview Haldeman also said:

• FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover gave Nixon "tid-bit type information" about "major figures", including "an abundance" of stories about Martin Luther King Jr.

• Nixon "let off steam" by issuing orders that "clearly were not intended to be car-

ried out." Haldeman said one of them, which he refused to carry out, was that White House aides be given lie-detector tests about new leaks.

• He thinks W. Mark Felt, former associate director of the FBI, was "Deep Throat," the mystery source of Watergate information to Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

Contacted at his home in Fairfax, Felt said: "The only comment I have is that this is not the first time Mr. Haldeman has been wrong."