

Nixon Has Doubts on Haldeman

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

In the seclusion of San Clemente, Richard M. Nixon is beginning to question whether his slavish former staff chief, H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, always leveled with him.

The questions have come up as Nixon has tried to patch together his memoirs. Without his presidential tapes and papers to jog his memory, he has had trouble reconstructing White House events.

He has started to question former aides to help refresh his memory. The deeper he has delved, the more he has wondered aloud whether Haldeman kept him fully informed about crucial matters.

While Nixon was President, he had a desire for solitude and a craving for an orderly environment undisturbed by trivial interruptions or internecine discord. He sought to encapsulate himself from unnecessary turmoil and to gain the information he needed by reading, not rapping.

The hard-nosed Haldeman protected him from intrusions. Nixon has now begun to question whether he was over-protected. He has dropped remarks indicating he has deep misgivings about Haldeman.

Even before Nixon began doubting Haldeman, the tight bond that once linked these two men had been broken. They have not kept in touch with one another since Watergate sent Nixon into self-exile and threatens now to send Haldeman to prison.

The former President intends to invite Haldeman to San Clemente, nevertheless, to help him recall past events for his memoirs.

Footnote: two former Nixon intimates who won't be invited to San Clemente are John D. Ehrlichman and Charles Colson. The former President has broken all contact with both

men, according to our San Clemente sources.

Oil Buccaneers—From our oil notebook, here are more fascinating facts about those modern buccaneers, the oilmen, whose profits are more fabulous than the pirate treasures of the Blackbeard era:

- The world's No. 1 corporate power is Exxon, the super-corporation, whose \$10.9 billion profit last year exceeded the annual budgets of most nations. Its corporate ruler, J. Kenneth Jamieson, is little known outside of the world's boardrooms. Yet his \$677,000 annual salary is more than triple what President Ford is paid. Exxon faces antitrust charges brought by Connecticut, Florida, Kansas and the Federal Trade Commission, not to mention three air quality violations, 45 environmental violations and 53 oil discharge violations.

- The multinational, multibillion-dollar Texaco empire operates in 84 countries, with its own fleet of 205 tankers and 37,000 miles of pipeline. Last year, the company paid a scant 1.6 per cent federal tax on a \$2.8 billion net profit. This means the American taxpayers indirectly helped to keep Texaco's executives in Cadillacs and their women in mink. The company is defending itself from more than 50 legal actions involving antitrust, ecology and pollution.

- Mobil also paid a 1.6 per cent federal tax last year on an even greater \$3.6 billion net profit. Founded in 1866 as Vacuum Oil, Mobil is now deep into oil shale, natural gas, coal and solar power. This company, too, is defending itself from multiple environmental, water quality and antitrust charges.

- Gulf, the oil company of the fabulous Mellon family, ran up its profits a fantastic 440 per cent during the 1972-74 period. Last year, the company paid less than a 5 per cent federal tax on a \$3.9 billion net profit.

Some of the Mellons, with per-

sonal fortunes in the hundreds of millions, have managed to juggle their finances so that they sometimes pay no federal income taxes at all. Gulf is fighting environmental regulations, has been cited for environmental violations and is involved in illegal political contributions.

- Standard Oil of California by no means limits its operations to California. It is active in no less than 35 foreign countries, and is also building a large tanker fleet. In 1973, the company was slapped on the wrist for monopoly practices in American Samoa. It has also been cited in antitrust cases.

- Only two of the Big Eight pay federal taxes worth mentioning. Last year, Standard Oil of Indiana paid an 18.2 per cent tax on a \$1.7 billion net income. Shell paid a 28.6 per cent tax on a \$903 million income. Yet even

these taxes were far below the 49 per cent standard corporate tax. Nor were the two companies so hard-pressed that they had to deprive their executives. Standard of Indiana paid its chairman, John Searingen, a \$476,000 salary last year; Shell's president Harry Bridges collected \$410,000.

Additional oil notes:

Conoco, with \$7 billion in oil sales last year, is also the nation's biggest seller of bituminous coal . . . Phillips, once run by an American Indian, now operates in 16 countries and is involved in the North Sea explorations . . . Amerada Hess, a family firm run by Leon Hess, has boosted its profits an incredible 676 per cent since 1972 . . . Getty Oil, owned by the aged playboy and art collector J. Paul Getty, has scored a 245 per cent profit increase since 1972.

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