

Kalmbach Recounts Ehrlichman Talk

By Jack Anderson

By President Nixon's account, aide John Ehrlichman wasn't supposed to impede the Watergate investigation but merely to make sure it didn't impinge upon national security. Yet Ehrlichman spoke only about political security when he asked Herbert Kalmbach to participate in the Watergate cover-up.

As Kalmbach has recounted the conversation to investigators, Ehrlichman warned that the investigation could "jeopardize" the election campaign. In a reference to the Democrats, he snorted: "They'll have our heads in their laps."

Kalmbach had agreed to raise money to pay the living and legal expenses of the Watergate defendants. He was never told the money would be offered as a bribe to buy their silence, but the James Bond intrigue made him suspicious.

He sought reassurance from Ehrlichman, whom he confronted in the White House in late July. Kalmbach told investigators that he put the question on a personal basis. "John," he said, "we've been friends for 10 years. You know my family, and I know your family. I want you to tell me whether this assignment is proper and must be carried out."

He quoted Ehrlichman as reassuring him that the payoffs

were entirely proper but that the secrecy was necessary for political reasons.

The last approach to Kalmbach for payoff money was made as late as Jan. 18, 1973, at a meeting in ex-Attorney General John Mitchell's office. Kalmbach recalled that John Dean, then White House counsel, had accompanied him to the meeting. But by this time, Kalmbach had decided he wanted nothing more to do with the project, so he quietly excused himself after ten minutes.

As the President's personal attorney, Kalmbach has been one of the most silent men in the Watergate mystery. He has told his story to investigators, however, with quiet candor.

A few days after the Waterbuggers were caught, he was summoned to Washington by John Dean who arranged to meet him on the street in front of the Hay-Adams Hotel. Dean carefully stressed the necessity for secrecy, and then asked him to underwrite the Watergate defendants' expenses.

Dean suggested that the hush money, as it was later used, should be channeled through a burly New York private detective named Anthony Ulasewicz. The undercover man was known to Kalmbach who, in 1969, had set up a special bank account to pay him \$22,000 a year, plus expenses, for investigative work. Ula-

sewicz's main assignment, though Kalmbach was never told this, was to dig up dirt on Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Kalmbach told investigators he collected between \$210,000 and \$230,000, which was distributed to the Watergate defendants. He picked up \$75,000 from Maurice Stans, the Republican finance chairman; another \$75,000 from Thomas Jones, president of Northrop Corp.; and the balance from campaign bag man Fred LaRue.

The arrangements were handled with elaborate secrecy. Kalmbach and Ulasewicz placed calls to one another through pay phones and used verbal shorthand to identify the people involved in their conversation.

Watergate ringleader Howard Hunt, for example, was referred to as "the writer," and his wife Dorothy as "the writer's wife." Ulasewicz used several aliases, his favorite being "Mr. Rivers."

Some of the money was directed to Dorothy Hunt who used the code name "Chris" in her own pay-phone calls to the other Watergate defendants. It was this James Bond business, Kalmbach told investigators, that finally persuaded him to end his role in the Watergate conspiracy.

Greek Justice—Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) has triggered an unprecedented State Department protest to the Greek junta over the arrest of six

lawyers in Athens. Their only crime, Bayh charged, was defending young college students who had demonstrated against the regime.

It was his understanding, he advised Secretary of State William Rogers privately, that the six were "being held incommunicado and subjected to torture by the special interrogation branch of the Greek military police in a building opposite our own embassy in Athens."

Rogers ordered aides to investigate the charges. He was sufficiently disturbed over their report to authorize a formal protest both to the Greek Embassy in Washington and to the Greek government in Athens by way of the U.S. Embassy.

The protest was diplomatically phrased as an expression of serious concern. Yet it was a significant departure for the State Department, since it touched on the internal affairs of Greece.

Footnote: Elias Demetracopoulos, the exile leader who first tipped Bayh to the torture of the lawyers, has told us that an American-trained sociologist, Virginia Tsouderos, and a university professor, Demetrios Tstatsos, both Greek citizens, have also been arrested in the case. Their crime, allegedly, was to protest the arrest of the six lawyers.