White House Aid For Haldeman

Washington

The lawyer for former top presidential aides H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman has been secretly receiving copies of documents and papers which the White House has turned over to the Watergate special prosecutor, according to informed sources.

Apparently, no other former presidential or campaign aide under investigation in the Watergate case has been offered such help, the sources said. Most of those under investigation, such as former presidential counsel John W. Dean III, have been hindered in their attempts to review their White House files.

Legal authorities said that access to government evidence by potential defendants in a criminal case is controlled by the prosecutor or the court. According to court decisions, defendants get access to government evidence just prior to or during the trial, not during the investigation.

John J. Wilson, the attorney for Haldeman and Ehrlichman, has been receiving

copies of his clients' documents, papers and notes under an informal agreement with J. Fred Buzhardt, special White House counsel who is handling the President's Watergate defense, the sources said.

Wilson only receives copies of material requested by the special prosecutor, the sources said, but Haldeman and Ehrlichman personally have been given easy access to the reut of their files.

"The White House is out of line in making such an informal agreement," one senior Justice Department attorney said yesterday. "It will only add to the suspicion. It's like telling Haldeman and Ehrlichman what evidence is being developed against them by the prosecutors... if it was my case I'd go to court to stop it.

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