

Sharp Jibes at Top Nixon Aide

By Maxine Cheshire

ONE OF THE REPORTERS who went to China with President Nixon invited Presidential Assistant H. R. (Bob) Haldeman to their reunion at the Peking Restaurant in Washington last weekend.

But his ears must have been burning in abstentia.

The stern Haldeman, who does not socialize with the press or anyone else, was the subject of some of the sharpest jibes of the evening.

Foreign Affairs adviser Henry Kissinger, when his turn came to address the group, warned them kiddingly that Haldeman would probably have someone making a tape-recording of everything said.

"I dread to think of what his reaction will be," Kissinger said.

Then Kissinger himself got off a crack about the most powerful of President Nixon's aides.

In response to the kidding about his 120-member staff, Kissinger said:

"I haven't had any real problems with them except for selecting their uniforms. The uniforms I had planned for them were pirated by Bob Haldeman for the White House police."

Newsweek's Mel Elfin, who presented Kissinger, quipped that the first choice for speaker had been Secret Service agent Bob Taylor, who was ousted as head of the White House detail recently after a clash with Haldeman.

Elfin said an invitation addressed to Taylor at the White House came back marked "addressee unknown."

Then, Elfin claimed, he asked Haldeman himself. He declined with a postscript that read:

"I'll bet you \$10 that you never locate Bob Taylor."

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