

# 'No Evidence Against Haldeman'

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## Washington

The Senate committee investigating the Watergate conspiracy said yesterday that it has "no evidence of any nature" implicating H. R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff, in any "illegal" activities.

The panel's chairman, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), and its vice chairman, Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. (Rep-Tenn.), said that they were making the announcement "in the interests of fairness and justice."

There have been newspaper reports that James W. McCord Jr., in secret testimony before the committee

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last week, charged Haldeman with advance knowledge of the wiretapping at the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee last year. McCord has been convicted in the burglary and bugging.

### WEICKER

In addition, Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (Rep-Conn.), who is a member of the investigating committee, said Tuesday that Haldeman should accept over-all responsibility for improper Republican political activity and should submit his resignation.

The statement by Ervin and Baker said that the committee is "concerned with certain news media accounts" implying that Haldeman was involved in

the bugging and in "other illegal acts" in the 1972 presidential campaign. The statement added:

"In the interests of fairness and justice, the committee wishes to state publicly that as of this time it has received no evidence of any nature linking Mr. Haldeman with any illegal acts in connection with the presidential campaign of 1972."

### TESTIMONY

McCord, who was security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President at the time of the plot and was convicted in January, went before the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities a week ago.

He was understood to have told the closed session that Haldeman "knew what was

going on" at the President's political organization.

Weicker, who has said he had no evidence of specific acts of wrongdoing by the White House official, issued a statement yesterday, saying that he concurred in the Ervin-Baker announcement.

### IMMUNITY

Meanwhile, four of McCord's co-conspirators were taken from the District of Columbia jail and granted immunity from further prosecution by Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the U.S. District Court here. All had pleaded guilty at the trial.

Two of the men, Bernard L. Barker and Eugenio R. Martinez, appeared before a Federal Grand Jury that has resumed its investigation of the Watergate plot. The two others, Frank A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzalez, are

scheduled to testify today.

The attorney for all four Miami men, Daniel Schultz of Washington, told reporters that Barker and Martinez answered all questions posed by the 23-member panel after Judge Sirica's grant of immunity.

There was no indication of what the two men had said in the secret proceeding. A fifth conspirator who pleaded guilty, E. Howard Hunt Jr., answered grand jury questions under an immunity grant last week.

### JAVITS

G. Gordon Liddy, the seventh conspirator, who was found guilty in January, refused to talk despite Judge Sirica's order to do so and was found in contempt of court Tuesday. Liddy has appealed his conviction.

Senator Jacob K. Javits (Rep-N.Y.) said it would be "constructive" for President Nixon to inform the public directly of what he knew about the espionage plot.

"If the President has made the investigation which he says he has," Javits said, "I think he should share with the public the details of what he found out. I don't think he should kiss it off with a blanket statement that everything's OK."

Records show that the President's chief legal counsel, John W. Dean III, was dismissed from his first job with a Washington law firm in 1966 for what his employer first termed "unethical conduct" but later described as a "basic disagreement" over the firm's policies.

(See Jack Anderson's column on page 45.)