

SF Examiner MAY 2 1973

3 Aides' Files Taken for Scrutiny

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Private files of three deposed White House aides have been removed from their offices and are being examined for any material relating to the Watergate scandal, it was learned today.

The bulky file cabinets, most or all of them reportedly equipped with combination locks, were taken from the offices of H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman

and John W. Dean III to a central location in the White House by FBI agents.

The agents were posted at the offices of the trio within hours after President Nixon announced their resignations Monday. The White House said the move was not intended to cast aspersions on anyone and simply was intended to safeguard presidential papers.

Haldeman and Ehrlichman, Nixon's most trusted aides and among the most powerful men in the administration, are scheduled to appear tomorrow before a grand jury investigating Watergate, it was learned.

Meanwhile, Nixon was moving swiftly to reorganize his staff, with Vice President Agnew given a greater part in the power structure. White House sources said the President has decided to make Agnew the vice-chairman of the Domestic Council, the chief forum for formulation of domestic policy. The President is chairman.

It was learned that Nixon does not plan to give anyone the power that Haldeman had as chief of staff to control all presidential appointments and communications. Sources said Nixon now felt the tight controls at the top of the staff deprived him of

—See Back Page, Col. 4

—From Page 1

receiving some vital information.

Other sources said the President had asked Donald Rumsfeld, a former aide who is now NATO ambassador, to return to the White House to take on some of the duties held by Haldeman.

The Watergate grand jury reconvened at the federal courthouse and Jeb. S. Magruder, a former White House aide who was deputy director of Nixon's reelection organization, made his second appearance before the panel.

Also taken to the courthouse was E. Howard Hunt Jr., who pleaded guilty to involvement in the Watergate bugging. Hunt's lawyer said he was brought from the District of Columbia jail to testify again before the grand jury.

The President was said to have told a cabinet meeting yesterday that he was displeased by the way FBI agents moved into the White House yesterday to secure the files and presidential papers in the offices abandoned by Dean, Ehrlichman and Haldeman.

A spokesman said Nixon did not object to the "procedure," but he was disturbed by seeing the agents outside the three men's offices. Another reliable source said the President felt the FBI move was handled "clumsily," although he knew "it had to be done."

Sources said Nixon's reorganization may not try to "duplicate" the kind of staff he had with Haldeman as the center of power and Ehrlichman as the key man for domestic affairs. They said the President may rely heavily on Treasury Secretary George Shultz in the future to handle domestic affairs.

A participant in the cabinet meeting said Kenneth B. Cole, executive director of the Domestic Council, will take over some of the duties handled by Ehrlichman and eventually may replace him.

It was also reported that Stephen B. Bull, assistant to the president, has taken on added duties in short-term scheduling and paper flow. It is not considered likely that he will replace Haldeman — but rather that the chief of staff's duties may be taken over in part by the Office of Management and Budget.