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Aide's Lawyer

How Guidelines Were Drawn Up

Washington

Controversial White House guidelines disclosure of any Watergate case communications with President Nixon, were drafted at the request of the attorney for John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman, it was revealed yesterday.

The two departing aides are understood to have relied on the guidelines in refusing to answer certain questions by the federal grand jury probing the Watergate scandal.

John J. Wilson, the attorney for Ehrlichman and Haldeman, said he spoke last week to acting presidential counsel Leonard Garment about guidelines on executive privilege "and the first thing I knew we had some."

COVERED

The guidelines were delivered in a White House limousine to Wilson May 4 at the federal courthouse where he accompanied Haldeman and Ehrlichman

to their first appearance before the grand jury.

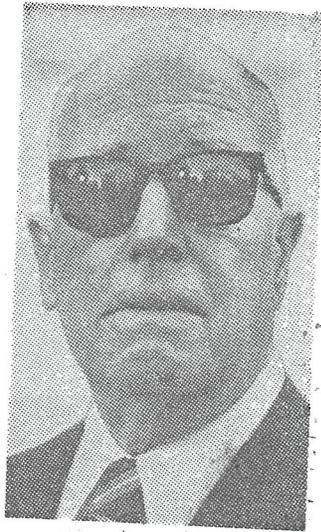
Those covered by the guidelines are present and past White House aides who are questioned by the FBI, the grand jury or the special Senate committee probing the Watergate affair.

The aides were instructed to invoke executive privilege "in connection with conversations with the President, conversations among themselves involving communications with the President, as to presidential papers."

The guidelines have been criticized as an attempt to suppress information that could prove embarrassing to Mr. Nixon.

RUSH

"Garment rushed these guidelines together because Ehrlichman and Haldeman wanted them," one White House Aide said. "There's been some agitation here over them. They were done with relative haste and were not really thought through.



AP Wirephoto

JOHN J. WILSON
He sought testimony rules

We should have gone by what we had out before."

On April 17, Mr. Nixon announced that White House Staff members "will answer fully all proper questions" and said they may assert executive privilege during the course of the questioning by the Senate committee.

The latest guidelines, however, appeared to be a more extensive ban on discussing communications dealing with the president. They also extend to questioning by the FBI and the grand jury, an area where there is no known precedent for invoking executive privilege.

L.A. Times Service