

Privilege Stand Softened

Washington

The White House yesterday softened its broad instructions on when present or former presidential aides should refuse to answer questions on grounds of executive privilege.

Acting White House counsel Leonard Garment told newsmen the guidelines he drafted recently won't be allowed to hide wrongdoing, can't be legally enforced, are only for general guidance and don't "represent any attempt to restrict or suppress information."

Earlier some commentator and official had expressed concern that the guidelines could be used by some Watergate figures, including former aides H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, to duck sensitive questions on grounds other than the Fifth Amendment's protection against self-incrimination.

Associated Press
