

New Evidence on Nixon's Ex-Aides

Washington

Federal prosecutors now have evidence directly linking H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former top White House advisers, to illegal activities against Daniel Ellsberg in 1971, sources close to the Watergate investigation have disclosed.

The prosecutors have concluded, the sources said, that those activities were a major factor behind the decision at the White House to cover up the Watergate bugging a year later.

This theory of prosecution, for the first time linking the two aides directly to illegal

activities against Ellsberg, was described by the sources as the heart of the government's prospective case against Haldeman, who resigned last month as President Nixon's chief of staff, and Ehrlichman, who resigned as his top domestic adviser.

The theory was outlined to Archibald Cox, the newly appointed special Watergate prosecutor, in his meeting with assistant federal prosecutors last week.

DENIAL

A spokesman for Haldeman and Ehrlichman denied that the two men had partic-

ipated in or covered up any criminal activities while serving in the White House.

Informed sources disclosed that damaging evidence against Haldeman and Ehrlichman was recently presented to the federal grand jury here by David R. Young Jr., The former National Security Council aide.

He served as co-director of the so-called "plumbers team" that was authorized by President Nixon to stop leaks of information after publication of the Pentagon Papers in June, 1971.

Young testified to the grand jury after being given partial immunity at the prosecutors request last May 16, the sources said.

ACTIVITIES

The prosecutors further believe, the sources said, they can prove that key officials of the White House knew at the time they were committed that certain undercover activities against Ellsberg were illegal.

These activities included a break-in in September, 1971, at the office of his former psychiatrist in Los Angeles.

The prosecutors are also known to believe, the sources said, that President Nixon's statement last Tuesday on the Watergate cover-up was designed, in the words of one official, "to



DAVID R. YOUNG JR.
Damaging testimony

provide an umbrella of national security for Haldeman and Ehrlichman."

"If ever a statement was drafted to meet a grand jury inquiry, that was it," one Justice Department official said. "They (White House officials) know what the prosecutors have been doing with the witnesses."

Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, denied that Mr. Nixon's statement was connected in any way to the White House activities undertaken in response to the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

His statement said:

"The May 22 statement was clear in its purpose and its scope, which were outlined at the time it was issued. The claim made by the anonymous source in the story that the statement was designed for some other purpose is ludicrous. The White House does not have access to grand jury proceedings."

N.Y. Times Service