

White House 'Little h'

JACK ANDERSON

Rides Out Storm

White House insiders can hardly believe that Larry Higby has managed to ride out the Watergate storm, avoid the public spotlight and keep his job as a presidential deputy.

Under the Byzantine regime of former staff chief H. R. Haldeman, the brusque, bookish Higby, still in his 20s, occupied the catbird's seat. He was Haldeman's Haldeman. Few got past Haldeman to see the President; few got past Higby to see Haldeman. They were known around the White House as "Big H" and "Little h."

Taking his cue from Haldeman, "Little h" was curt, arrogant, insensitive. Senators have complained to us that their calls to the President would be routed through Higby, who handled them abruptly, and on at least one occasion he kept a prominent senator on hold.

Higby was totally involved in almost everything Haldeman did. Haldeman even stopped by in his White House limousine to pick up Higby in the mornings and to drop him off at his home in the evenings. Our White House sources insist Higby couldn't possibly have been unaware of Haldeman's Watergate involvement.

Specifically, they claim that Haldeman's political aide, Gordon Strachan, who allegedly submitted the Watergate reports to Haldeman, went

through Higby almost without exception. However, Higby has told the Senate Watergate investigators quite a different story. He has sworn that he was not privy to the Watergate information, that Strachan dealt directly with Haldeman on this subject.

Both Haldeman and Strachan have left the White House under a cloud, but Higby remains on the payroll in good standing. Indeed, he received a pay raise last February.

Footnote: Long after Haldeman's departure, he continued to visit Higby almost daily at the White House. Higby refused to talk to us. Through a press spokesman, however, he denied any involvement in the Watergate affair. He explained that he continued to see Haldeman to help tie up loose ends.

VIP Vacations

While most Americans vacation at overpriced and overcrowded resorts packed r to their neighbors like coi a pocket, a few well-con bureaucrats are able t the nation's most p spots—with the picking up most

From the loft Grand Tetons deserted str the Virgin from C House partr tion