

From column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak:

tary to the President"—one of many Haldeman holdovers whose continued presence exasperates Republican politicians.

Kehrli's only apparent employment before joining the Marines in July 1969 at age 24 was a job under Haldeman in the Los Angeles office of the J. Walter Thompson Advertising agency. Just 16 months later, Kehrli was mysteriously detached from the Marines and assigned to the White House.

That was November 1970. In February 1972, Kehrli, by then a captain, "resigned" from the Marines, having completed his service after only two and one-half years in the corps, half of that in the White House.

Haldeman's special arrangement for Kehrli may well be explainable, but 10 days of requests to the White House produced no explanation. Kehrli's secretary said he would not take our calls.

Our check with Marine Corps headquarters produced disturbing implications that Haldeman cut large corners. Three years on active military duty was the absolute Marine Corps minimum during the days of the draft; no exception could be found to the general rule that, within that period, no officer could be "detached" to civilian duty.

Bruce Kehrli, an H. R. Haldeman protege who is still in the White House with a cloak of secrecy about him, joined the presidential staff almost three years ago under most unusual conditions as a young Marine Corps officer in the middle of his tour of service.

Neither Kehrli nor the White House would explain this arrangement for us. An anonymous figure who wielded substantial power in the Haldeman era, he is still listed as "Staff Secre-