

Mitchell testifies ②
Ehrlichman and
Haldeman aided cover-
up; he defends
Nixon's 'good name'

10 AT WHITE HOUSE

JUL 12 1973

Conservative Senators Tell President They Still Support Him

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By R. W. APPLE Jr.

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WASHINGTON, July 11—Ten conservative Republican Senators called on President Nixon at the White House tonight to tell him that they were not deserting him because of the Watergate scandals.

The group, headed by Senator Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska, met with the President for cocktails in the White House library shortly after 6 P.M., after a second day of testimony by former Attorney General John N. Mitchell on Capitol Hill.

Some conservative Republicans, notably Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, have criticized Mr. Nixon for not adequately responding to accusations that he was involved in the Watergate cover-up. So the Curtis delegation was doubly welcomed by White House officials struggling to regain the political offensive.

Not on Guest List

Mr. Goldwater's name was not on the guest list. Nor were those of other well-known conservatives among the 43 Senate Republicans, such as James A.

Buckley of New York, Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska and Edward J. Gurney of Florida, Mr. Nixon's main defender on the Senate Watergate committee.

Senator Buckley was not invited. Senator Goldwater apparently was not either, although his spokesman, Tony Smith, said he was not sure. In any event, the Arizonan was out of town and could not have attended even if he had been asked.

Mary Cassidy, Senator Curtis's press secretary, said that

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the list was composed of Senators who had complimented Mr. Curtis, either orally or in writing, after his Senate speech of June 14, criticizing those who he said were "out to get" the President. She said no formal invitation were extended. "The Senator simply asked those who had told him they felt a need to talk to the President and let him know that everyone wasn't deserting him because of Watergate," Miss Cassidy said.

Appointment Sought

According to White House officials, Senator Curtis called William Timmons, the Presidential liaison man with Congress, and asked for an appointment. After delays caused by the visit of Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Chairman of the Soviet Communist party, and Mr. Nixon stay at the Western White House, tonight's reception was scheduled.

Besides Mr. Curtis, those invited were Wallace F. Bennett of Utah, Dewey F. Bartlett of Oklahoma, Norris Cotton of

New Hampshire, Clifford P. Hansen of Wyoming, Jesse A. Helms of North Carolina, Milton R. Young of North Dakota, John G. Tower of Texas, Paul J. Fannin of Arizona and Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

In another Watergate-related development, Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, said tonight that the rules for access to Presidential papers by former White House aides had been modified.

The papers were put under guard last April 30. At that time, former White House aides—such as H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and John W. Dean 3d—were permitted to copy papers under supervision for their files.

But on May 23, without announcement, Mr. Warren said, the aides were told they could henceforth inspect the papers but make no notes or copies. He called the change a step "to insure that there is no untoward disclosure of the documents."

Mr. Nixon has been resisting the Watergate committee's efforts to obtain key papers.