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'Get Into Politics,' Haldeman Says

Washington

Former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman said yesterday he would consider it "an overriding tragedy" if the Watergate affair caused any young persons contemplating a career in government to change their minds.

Senator Joseph M. Montoya (Dem-N.M.) said he hoped that all those who do enter Government service "be alert at all times, and careful, to avoid a Watergate pit," and asked Haldeman if he agreed with that.

"With all my heart," replied the witness.

Montoya recalled that a former aide to Haldeman, Gordon Strachan, when asked what advice he would give to young persons interested in a Government career, replied they should stay away.

Haldeman said Strachan's answer was "one of the saddest moments of this hearing." He said that he hoped Strachan would have given an opposite answer, as did former White House domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman who called on young people to "come and do better."

Asked by Montoya for his own advice, Haldeman said:

"My advice to any man or woman who feels that he or she has the ability and the interest to serve this country in any way, he or she should pursue it to the fullest of their ability."

Haldeman said that his oldest son hopes to go to law school and seek a Government career. "I hope to God he enters Government service in some way," he said.

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