

Haldeman 'Takes' Barber's Advice



Jack Anderson

WHEN FORMER White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman went before the Senate Watergate Committee for his three days of grilling, the gentle Biblical advice of his Baptist barber still rang in his ears.

The haughty Haldeman wanted to look his best for the TV cameras. So on Sunday, the day before he testified, he asked his old friend Jack Allen, a barber at the House of Representatives, to shape the famous Haldeman "butch" haircut.

Allen takes pride in his haircuts for the mighty. But his deeper devotion is to his Baptist creed which he mildly but persuasively preaches to his clients.

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AS THE Baptist barber clipped and combed the hair of the Christian Scientist, the two men fell to talking about Senate Watergate Chairman Sam Ervin's admonition to Haldeman's friend and former colleague, John Ehrlichman. The Bible-quoting North Carolinian had taken his text for Ehrlichman from Galatians:

"God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Allen's busy scissors paused a moment and he said softly to Haldeman that perhaps a more kindly message from Saint Paul, also in Galatians, might be worth considering as he took the witness chair before the relentless probing.

"But the fruit of the spirit," quoted the barber, "is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

The next day, Haldeman began his three arduous days under the TV lights in the supercharged, hostile atmosphere of the old Senate Caucus Room.

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WHETHER it was the tactical advice of his shrewd lawyers, or the wise words of his barber friend that did it, Haldeman parried even the toughest examinations by Senators with the "longsuffering, gentleness" and "meekness" urged almost 2000 years ago on the "foolish Galatians" by the Apostle. The general approval that greeted Haldeman's abandonment of past arrogance is evidence that the barber's Biblical advice was sound.

Footnote: Allen has a color portrait of Haldeman in his shop inscribed to "a true master of his trade, with appreciation and friendship." Allen told our reporter Bob Owens that his other clients include White House aides Mel Laird and Peter Flanigan; Treasury Secretary George Shultz and former White House aide Alexander Butterfield, who exposed the White House tapes and is now Federal Aviation Administrator.