

Suit Involving Haldeman Action In Antiwar Protest Is Blocked

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 14 (AP) —An appeals court has blocked further action temporarily in a suit in which H. R. Haldeman is charged with conspiring to encourage political dissent against President Nixon.

The suit was filed in Charlotte, N.C., by 14 persons, most of whom said they carried anti-Nixon and anti-war posters before the start of a Billy Graham Day observance there in October, 1971.

The 14 originally filed suit against Secret Service officers, the City of Charlotte and members of the Charlotte Police Department. The plaintiffs charged the defendants with violating their constitutional rights by refusing to allow them to enter Charlotte Coliseum, even though they had tickets. Some were arrested for disorderly conduct.

Mr. Haldeman, President Nixon's chief of staff at the time, became involved in the suit when the City of Charlotte and its police department, in a counter-claim, accused him of conspiring to encourage political dissent against Mr. Nixon during the rally.

The counter-claim alleged that

Mr. Haldeman had done so on the theory that "demonstrations by persons presumed to be disreputable would work to the political advantage of the President."

But the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit yesterday blocked further action on the suit until a review of a petition filed by two defendants—the former Secret Service director, James J. Rowley, and a special agent, John H. Grimes Jr. Mr. Grimes was in charge of Secret Service operations in Charlotte.

They have asked the appeals court to order Federal District Court in Charlotte to dismiss the suit and withdraw an order directing the Secret Service to produce documents and respond to certain questions.

They contend not only that Secret Service agents are immune from civil trial but also that if the requested information is furnished "the protective operations of the Secret Service would be impaired."