

Nixon Admits Shift On Tape Summaries

Denials Issued

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The White House yesterday denied that it was giving copies of Watergate-related files to John J. Wilson, the attorney for former top presidential aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman.

Wilson said yesterday that he had received a copy of one set of notes from Haldeman's file after the notes were made public in court. But he denied that he had an arrangement with the White House to receive copies of all his clients' material turned over to the Watergate special prosecutor.

The Washington Post, quoting informed sources, reported yesterday that there was such an agreement between Wilson and the White House.

One of the sources in-
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sisted late yesterday that there was such an agreement and added: "The story nipped the arrangement in the bud." Copies of two additional sets of Haldeman's notes that have been given to the special prosecutor had been prepared for Wilson last week, but may not have been delivered, the source said.

Wilson is known to have said that he had such a permanent arrangement with the White House. Wilson said yesterday, however, that he "only received the one set of notes from the White House and that was notes already introduced into evidence in court."

The notes were made by Haldeman of a June 20, 1972, meeting with the President and cover the 18-minute portion of the White House tape that was obliterated.

Wilson said that he "intended to go back for more notes from time to time."

J. Fred Buzhardt, special presidential counsel for Watergate matters, said yesterday that he was not

aware Wilson received a copy of Haldeman's June 20, 1972 notes. "I didn't give it

to him . . . but he could have called someone from my office and they would have given it to him."

Wilson said he could not recall who in the White House gave him the copy of Haldeman's notes.

Buzhardt said that he has received several requests from attorneys for former aides under investigation in the Watergate case for information or copies from White House files.

"Wilson came over to see me about it," Buzhardt said. "I told him it was a very complex matter and no decision had been reached."

"It may well happen that we will provide the documents," in the future to Wilson," Buzhardt said.

Legal sources have said that any arrangement to provide lawyers copies of potential evidence against their clients may be improper.

Buzhardt said that Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Wilson have received no special preferential treatment from him in gaining access to documents and information in their files. He conceded that others at the White House "may have" provided the two former aides privileged treatment.

According to White House sources and court testimony, Haldeman has continued to have unique control over his old White House files since his resignation as the president's chief of staff last April 30.

Haldeman's successor, Gen. Alexander M. Haig, and Lawrence Higby, Haldeman's former personal aide, both testified in a court hearing this month that the White House was not provided the combination to the lock on Haldeman's files when he left the White House.

Higby, now a deputy in the Office of Management and Budget, testified that he was instructed by Haldeman not to turn over some of his old notes to Haig or the special prosecutor until Higby had first read them back to Haldeman. The notes in question were those of the June 20, 1972, meeting that Wilson received from the White House.

In a telephone interview

yesterday, Buzhardt also questioned a report in yesterday's Post quoting a White House official who said that Buzhardt is extremely unhappy at the White House and wants to leave in the next three or four months.

"I'm not fed up and ready to leave," Buzhardt said. "I never quit anything in my life . . . I undoubtedly have voiced frustration, but I'm not throwing in the towel. I'm going to stay until the job is over."

"I will be 50 at the end of February, and I could retire with a pension," Buzhardt said.