

## Fund Set Up for Ehrlichman Defense

SEATTLE, Jan. 15 (AP)—John D. Ehrlichman, whose friends have started a trust fund to help pay for his legal expenses, is struggling to re-establish himself with a law practice specializing in environmental affairs.

Mr. Ehrlichman resigned as chief domestic adviser to President Nixon last spring in the wake of the Watergate scandals.

In addition to his practice of law in the environmental field, Mr. Ehrlichman has created a four-person Land Use Group designed to deal with environmental concerns. He said the group was not a law firm and he was the only attorney in the group.

"It is for purely educational purposes," he said.

He said of the charges against him: "Knowing what I know about the facts I think I've got good reason to be optimistic."

The former White House aide would not discuss his legal expenses but said in answer to a question:

"There's a trust fund that has been created. Some people have come forward in order to help out. Up to this point, there has been no active solicitation, but there have been some voluntary contributions."

He faces 10 civil suits, as well as criminal charges in Los Angeles in connection with the 1971 burglary of the office of the former psychiatrist of Dr. Daniel J. Ellsberg. And there remains the potential for criminal charges stemming from Watergate-related investigations in Washington.

Mr. Ehrlichman would not say what he and Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecu-

tor, discussed in Washington last week. But he called untrue an article in The Los Angeles Times that said he had been offered a deal in return for cooperation in Watergate prosecutions.

He said he still expected the White House tapes, which he stressed he had not heard, would vindicate him of charges in the Ellsberg case. Charges were dropped against Dr. Ellsberg in the Pentagon papers trial. Mr. Ehrlichman, 48 years old, lived here before joining the Nixon campaign in 1968. During the interview, he and his wife, Jeanne, sat in front of a fireplace and looked out across their lawn to Lake Washington, just 40 yards away. Their daughter's Shetland sheepdog, Kelly, played at the feet of the former White House aide.

He was more subdued than he was in a news conference last August on the subject of President Nixon's prospects for fully recovering from the effects of the scandals.

### Saw Quick Recovery

At that time, just after testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee, he said that the Administration would recover any lost "force and vitality" within weeks.

Asked if he thinks the Administration can still recover, he said:

"I think it could have at that time. I think there have been some intervening and superseding events that have made it now more difficult, but I still think it can be done."

Mr. Ehrlichman recalled the "massive outpouring of opposition to the President" in 1969 and 1970 when war raged in Southeast Asia. The former White House aide said that, in the subsequent months and into the re-election campaign, Mr.

Nixon reversed public opinion and "was really rolling legislatively and obviously politically and so on."

"I'm not willing to write off the ability of the White House to regain motion and initiative and dynamism again over the period of the next couple of years," he said.

"Public support is a very fickle thing. It has its ups and downs. Congressional reaction is very volatile. The moods of the City of Washington are subject to extreme swings from one to the other, and I see them. I've seen it swing both ways very fast.

### Remains Optimistic

"So I really don't think that I'm being unrealistically optimistic in saying that it could happen."

Mr. Ehrlichman said a Nixon recovery could be prevented "from happening by maladroitness, so to speak."

"But I'm willing to assume that the people in the White House have learned a great deal over the last year and that they can avoid some of the pitfalls," he said.

Throughout the interview, Mr. Ehrlichman refused to discuss several subjects including: his associates in Land Use Group, his clients and legal aspects of cases involving himself.

He and his wife had plenty to volunteer about what it was like to be back in Seattle. Both said neighbors and strangers whom they meet in the street have "been very friendly, very supportive."

There was a trace of bitterness about Washington.

Mrs. Ehrlichman said "you're either all good or all bad," there. "You're either in power or out. You're liked by what you are, not who you are."