

KALMBACH VIEWED AS A KEY WITNESS

Nixon Lawyer Seen Ready
to Link Haldeman to Funds

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—
Herbert W. Kalmbach, President
Nixon's personal lawyer, re-
turned to the special Watergate
prosecutor's office today to
continue assisting lawyers there
with the preparation of their
case, according to a well-placed
source.

The source characterized as
crucial the testimony of Mr.
Kalmbach, who pleaded guilty
yesterday to two campaign-
finance law violations, because
he "sat at the foot of the
throne" during much of the
planning of Watergate and re-
lated operations.

There were reports today
that Mr. Kalmbach was pre-
pared to tell the prosecutors
that H. R. Haldeman, Mr.
Nixon's former chief of staff,
organized the \$4-million "town
house" project to provide cam-
paign funds for Republican
Congressional candidates in
1970.

It was in connection with
the alleged mis-administration
of this fund, under the old
Federal Corrupt Practices Act,
which was in force in 1970,
that Mr. Kalmbach entered one
of his guilty pleas. The New-
port Beach, Calif., lawyer also
admitted promising a better
diplomatic post to J. Fife Sy-
mington Jr., then the United
States Ambassador to Trinidad
and Tobago, in return for a
\$100,000 contribution to the
1970 fund.

The Washington Post said
today that contributions from
two other diplomats—Vincent
De Roulet, the American repre-
sentative in Jamaica, and Fred
J. Russell, who later became
the United States Ambassador
to Denmark—also flowed into
the "town house" fund.

Mr. De Roulet and a number
of other American ambassadors
contributed large sums to Mr.
Nixon's re-election campaign in
1972, according to campaign-
finance documents released by
the President's re-election com-
mittee.

Leon Jaworski, the Water-
gate prosecutor, is reportedly
looking into the possibility that
some or all of these contribu-
tions were made in return for
promised appointments.