

They're Still Welcome at White House

By Vera Glaser

Washington

H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, former presidential aides now indicted in connection with the Watergate scandals, are still welcome at the White House.

Earlier this month Bob Haldeman was seen glad-handing administration officials at the Executive Office Building, which houses the overflow of Nixon advisers from the mansion next door.

That was the day before Haldeman was arraigned in U.S. District Court here.

Ehrlichman has visited the White House several times, according to sources there. He dropped in at least once in February to chew the fat with a former aide, Tod Hulin, and others.

There is no record of Haldeman or Ehrlichman having seen President Nixon since they were indicted, but they do seem to get friendly treatment from administration personnel.

John J. Wilson, an attorney for Haldeman and Ehrlichman, appeared to be or-

chestrating their defense with that of the President. He tried—until Sunday—to block the release of the grand jury report on Nixon's alleged Watergate involvement to the House Judiciary Committee, which is studying the impeachment question.

On his March 8 White House visit, Haldeman swapped greetings and pleasantries with, among others, Office of Management and Budget chief Roy Ash, Economic Advisers Chairman Herbert Stein, special assistant to the President John Nidecker and

staff aide Michael Raoul-Duval.

Lawrence Higby, who was Haldeman's confidential aide, now works for Frederick Malek, deputy OMB chief, but is regarded around the White House as "Bob's man on the scene."

After resigning, Haldeman



HALDEMAN
Still friendly



JOHN J. WILSON
Defense orchestrator



EHRlichman
White House visitor

worked out of Higby's office while reviewing his White House files to prepare his defense.

Higby is believed to be Haldeman's conduit to the Nixon inner circle, and it was he who instructed White House guards to admit Haldeman on the recent visit.

Raoul-Duval described Haldeman as "one of the most competent and honest men I've ever known," and said "he was in great spirits. He had that new haircut and a great tan."

Nidecker said he almost didn't recognize Haldeman with long hair. "I thought it looked dopey."

On March 9, Haldeman and Ehrlichman, along with five other ex-Nixon aides, who have been indicted, appeared before U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

Haldeman pleaded innocent to charges of conspiracy in the Watergate burglary, obstruction of justice and perjury. Ehrlichman entered a plea of not guilty to conspiracy, perjury and obstruction of justice in the coverup.