

Haldeman Says He'd Take the 5th

Washington

Former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman told the House Judiciary Committee today he would invoke the Fifth Amendment rather than testify before its impeachment inquiry.

Haldeman's message was read during a break in closed-door testimony from former White House staff secretary Alexander P. Butterfield.

Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr., (Dem-N.J.) and Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the pan-

el's senior Republican, agreed they will make no effort to compel Haldeman to testify by granting him immunity from further prosecution on the basis of what he says.

Haldeman's decision was made known through a letter from his lawyer, John J. Wilson, to James St. Clair, Mr. Nixon's impeachment lawyer. St. Clair gave it to Rodino.

Haldeman is to go on trial in September on charges of conspiracy and perjury in the Watergate cover-up.

United Press