

WASHINGTON — John Ehrlichman has been privately dubbed by legislators, Cabinet members and former White House colleagues as everything from arrogant and tough to a familiar deleted expletive. But the man tried for his part in the plumbers' break-in of Dr. Fielding's office is a whimsically warm human being to teenager Kristi Bundesen.

The daughter of freelance writer and photographer Lynne Bundesen (who is currently ensconced in the late Drew Pearson's Georgetown house). Kristi was only 11 years old when she began corresponding with the then - powerful presidential aide. She and her mother had met the Ehrlichmans several times when the young girl started her personal lobby to save the railroads. She sent him a menu from a Penn - Central dining car covered with signatures from supporting fellow - travelers and wrote: "The next time you see the President, would you give him this menu and please ask him to save the trains?" Very soon afterwards a letter on White House stationery came to her in New Mexico.

"Dear Old Railroad - Riding Miss Bundesen," it began. "We weren't going to do anything for the trains, but after we got your menu the President changed his mind and decided to help out. We're going to send them several hundred million dollars if the Senate will let us." It was signed "Yours sincerely, John D. Ehrlichman, Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs."

Kristi, according to her mother, was so enchanted by her heady impact on national affairs she dashed off another letter: "Dear Mr. Ehrlichman, Now that you're taking care of the trains, would you do something about burying the electrical wires underground? They obstruct the view of all the citizens."

Back came this reply on the impressive stationery: "The federal government's supply of holes is very low. It turns out that quite a few of the holes we would have used are now overseas. You will have to give us a little time to get them back before we can bury the wires. The holes we now have are being used for wells, ditches, culverts, and a certain number allocated to the baking industry for doughnuts. Congress is now considering an Emergency Hole Production Act which will permit the government to create a million more holes of varying lengths. Until we see whether they pass this legislation, we are not in a position to bury the wires. Your friend, John."

Kristi went off to summer camp pleased that there was life and humor at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, said her mother. But she first advised her White House contact of her change of address. John replied: "We have gotten a little behind because of your suggestions, and I think

The teen pen pal of John Ehrlichman

it is a good thing you're taking two or three weeks off ... and giving us a chance to catch up."

Back from camp, Kristi attended a citizens' meeting for saving the trains and she produced the letters from her friend John. She wound up with her picture in the paper as the youngest lobbyist there. She wrote the President's adviser again, offering to come to Washington and cry if it would help any.

Responded Ehrlichman: "The next time we have a railroad strike we're going to send for you and you can come up here and cry. I think it is a very constructive suggestion — in fact, it is one of the best suggestions we have had in connection with the whole railroad situation."

Mrs. Bundesen said her daughter next tried to use her influential friend to change the domestic situation at home. "My mother makes me do the dishes all the time," she wrote, "so I don't have as much time to write." Ehrlichman whipped back, "It's good for little girls to do dishes. When you don't do them they smell bad. And it keeps you in touch with the common people. My daughters do dishes."

After that she returned to the nation's business and sent her friend an entirely new suggestion. John replied: "I've taken up your idea of ditching the forests to prevent fires from spreading with the President and he says it probably will not find its way into his upcoming State of the Union address. I hope you will be able to sit by your TV and watch the State of the Union and tell me what you think."

Vice President Ford's son Mike and his bride Gayle wrote their own wedding vows, and you can see why the couple's respective parents are not worried about this twosome. Said the bridegroom first: