

Ehrlichman Reportedly Felt Nixon Betrayed Him

New York

John Ehrlichman decided to call his old boss, former President Richard Nixon, to the witness stand in the forthcoming Watergate cover-up trial because he felt Mr. Nixon betrayed him, Newsweek magazine reported yesterday.

Newsweek quoted sources close to the former White House domestic affairs adviser as saying that he made his decision to bring his former boss into court as a defense witness after reading the transcript of the June 23, 1972, White House tapes.

These were the tapes that revealed the former President knew about the Watergate cover-up months earlier

than he had originally claimed.

In them, the President and another top aide, H. R. Haldeman, discussed a plan to stop an FBI probe into the history of money which was paid to the Watergate burglars. The two men also discussed the role which Ehrlichman would play in the cover-up.

The tapes also included mention that former Attorney General John Mitchell also knew about the cover-up.

Newsweek said Ehrlichman felt "completely duped" by Mr. Nixon and maintained that he did not know for nearly a year after the June 23 conversation

that Mitchell was aware of the cover-up.

Ehrlichman also felt the tape showed that Mr. Nixon and Haldeman concocted a cover-up story at least partly at his expense.

Newsweek quotes the source as saying that Ehrlichman believes "the President walked off and left him."

Reuters