

Nixon Aides Can See Their Papers

Washington

President Ford's legal counsel agreed yesterday to permit aides of former President Richard M. Nixon to examine papers that they left behind at the White House.

Within hours after the decision was announced, H.R. Haldeman, Mr. Nixon's former chief of staff, entered a guarded room in the Executive Office Building, next door to the White House, to look through his files.

Haldeman, along with five other Nixon aides, are to go on trial September 30 on charges of participating in a coverup of the Watergate affair.

The decision to permit access to the files came after attorneys for John D. Ehrlichman, another of the Watergate defendants, protested earlier this week that he did not have the same access to his papers as he formerly had.

Under a prior policy of the Nixon administration, aides involved in the Watergate trial had been permitted to examine their papers but were not allowed to copy them or make notes.

The reinstatement of this policy was announced yesterday by Jerald terHorst, press secretary to the President. He said that the decision had been made by Philip W. Buchen, President Ford's legal counsel.

Buchen said later that his office personally cleared the matter with Mr. Nixon and that he raised no objections.

Under the reinstated policy, the Watergate defendants will be permitted to examine, but not copy, their papers. They also will not be allowed to make notes, and their attorneys will not be allowed to accompany them.

In explaining why the defendants could not make notes, Buchen said that Se-

cret Service agents guarding the files would find it difficult to determine whether a person examining the papers was copying the material word for word or merely making notes.

Mr. Nixon's former attorneys, J. Fred Buzhardt and James D. St. Clair, issued an opinion last week that White House tape recordings and papers belong to the former President.

Only a day later, however, Mr. Ford appointed Buchen as his legal counsel, and Buchen promptly ordered that all of Nixon files and tapes remain in White House custody until legal issues involving the Watergate affair were resolved.

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