

Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Haldeman Plea
on Cover-Up Indictments

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 11—The Supreme Court removed today the last obstacle to continued prosecution of the Watergate cover-up case by refusing to hear a major legal objection raised by H. R. Haldeman, one of the defendants.

Mr. Haldeman, White House chief of staff under President Nixon, attempted to block the current trial with a lawsuit contending that the term of the Watergate grand jury had been illegally extended and that the indictments it voted were thus invalid.

The grand jury was empaneled on June 5, 1972, and would normally have expired 18 months later, on Dec. 4, 1973. Congress however, approved legislation extending

the jury's life by six months, and the cover-up indictments were handed up during that extension.

Federal District Judge John J. Sirica denied Mr. Haldeman's motion to dismiss the indictments on the ground that the grand jury was not legally in existence when they were voted. The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia refused to review Judge Sirica's ruling.

By declining to take the case today, the Supreme Court, in effect, rejected Mr. Haldeman's argument that only the Justices and not Congress could change the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that limit regular grand juries to 18 months.

As is normally true when they refuse to review a lower

court decision, the Justices did not make public any statement of their reasons.

CORPORATE POLITICAL AID

In another ruling, the high court agreed to decide whether a stockholder could sue a corporation for damages for an alleged violation of the criminal prohibition against the use of corporate funds for partisan political purposes.

The case involves Richard A. Ash, a stockholder in the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, who sued its president, Stewart Cort, and other officials of the corporation financing an advertising campaign for a Republican.

The ads were carried for carrying out the campaign. Keep