

Haldeman's Bitter Trial Denials

Washington

H. R. Haldeman denied under bitter and tenacious cross-examination yesterday that he ever intended to misuse the Central Intelligence Agency to cut short the initial FBI investigation into Watergate.

Testifying for the third day at the Watergate cover-up trial, Haldeman also said that while hundreds of thousands of dollars were going to the original Watergate defendants, he had no idea the cash was designed to buy their silence.

Assistant special prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste presented evidence that Haldeman knew shortly after the break-in that Nixon re-election committee officials were paying money to the defendants. Then he asked:

"Were you supporting them in some sort of lifetime annuity here? Were you opening some home for convicted burglars with this money?"

Haldeman replied, "I wasn't doing anything with that money."

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Nixon Donor Fined

Washington

Charles N. Huseman, a Washington electrical contractor, pleaded guilty yesterday to making an illegal \$5000 contribution to Richard Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. fined

Huseman \$1000.

The special prosecutor's office charged Huseman, former president of HMS Electric Corp., with making a \$5000 contribution in May, 1972 for which he was reimbursed from corporate funds.

Associated Press

Before Haldeman took the stand, U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica disclosed he is considering taking the testimony of Richard M. Nixon by having written questions submitted to the ailing former president.

Three court-appointed doctors who examined Mr. Nixon were to provide an opinion on whether he is healthy enough to answer written questions from defense and prosecution lawyers.

To dozens of questions put by Ben-Veniste, Haldeman, the 48-year-old former White House chief of staff, answered that he could not recall key conversations de-

scribed by other witnesses.

Haldeman was asked about two separate conversations he had with Mr. Nixon on June 23, 1972, and April 14, 1973. Although both Haldeman and the jury have heard tapes of the conversations, Haldeman insisted that except for the words on the tapes he is unable to remember anything about the talks.

Ben-Veniste asked Haldeman about a reference to funds for the defendants on the April 14 tape, saying "Weren't you telling the President exactly what you say here (in the courtroom) you can't recall?"

Haldeman: "I don't think so."

Earlier, Ben-Veniste had questioned Haldeman for more than two hours about the plan to use of the CIA to divert the FBI's Watergate investigation.

Haldeman acknowledged under questioning that a meeting with top CIA officials was promoted in part by fears of political embarrassment to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.

He said the former President was intensely worried that a \$25,000 donation to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign from a public supporter of Democratic Senator Hubert H. Humphrey would be exposed because it was traced through the bank account of one of the original Watergate burglars.

But Haldeman said he had no memory that either he or Mr. Nixon were concerned that the break-in investigation would lead to high-ranking officials in the White House or the re-election committee.

Associated Press