

Ehrlichman Talking About Job in Radio

John D. Ehrlichman, a convicted Watergate conspirator, has been negotiating for a job as a news commentator with the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Ehrlichman said in Seattle that discussions with the network were under way but "we haven't firmed anything up yet," the Associated Press reported.

In Washington, officials of Mutual confirmed that negotiations began several months ago and indicated that his conviction would not preclude his employment.

Network President C. Edward Little issued a statement which said:

"Speaking personally, the Watergate cover-up conviction does not affect my opinion of Ehrlichman's ability, mind, creativity, or what he can do for the United States and the Mutual Broadcasting System."

He said Ehrlichman was being considered as commentator on national domestic and economic affairs.

"No agreement has been reached," Little said. "The discussions will continue."

Another company spokesman said there was "no great urgency" about the discussions, and explained that, "We talk with many people about possible shows."

The format of an Ehrlichman show, he said, would probably be a 5-minute-per-day personal-opinion commentary on economic and other domestic news events.

The salary, the spokesman said, would depend on many

circumstances, including how many of the network's radio station affiliates were interested in buying the commentary. The company has 660 affiliates.

Ehrlichman was the chief domestic affairs adviser in his White House days, and was one of the most powerful men in the Nixon administration until he resigned in the Watergate scandal on April 30, 1973.

On Wednesday, he was convicted on charges of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and lying on two occasions to the Watergate grand jury. He faces as much as 20 years in prison and fines of \$35,000. Ehrlichman's lawyers have said the verdict will be appealed.

He has maintained that the failure of U. S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica to compel testimony from his former boss, President Nixon, was the turning point in the trial that led to his conviction. His defense throughout was that he was misled by Nixon.

In Seattle, the Associated Press quoted Ehrlichman as saying that his legal bills already exceed \$400,000 and that he is planning motions for a new trial and an appeal.

"I haven't had a bill from an attorney . . . yet," he said as he arrived there from Washington.

Ehrlichman had established a lucrative zoning and land-use legal career in Seattle before joining the 1968 presidential campaign and then the White House Staff.