

Haldeman Wonders if C.I.A. Used Watergate 'to Get' Nixon

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MISSION, Kan., June 22 (UPI)

— H. R. Haldeman, former White House chief of staff, speculates that the Central Intelligence Agency may have helped engineer the Watergate scandal to destroy Richard M. Nixon.

"The agency had the capacity and perhaps, unknown to me, the motivation," Mr. Haldeman said in the fourth of a series of five syndicated newspaper articles co-written with the columnist Joseph Scott.

The article was distributed by the Universal Press Syndicate for Wednesday newspapers.

Mr. Haldeman said he had never understood why Alexander P. Butterfield, the aide who disclosed the existence of the White House tapes to the Senate Watergate committee, wanted to join the White House staff.

"Alex originally approached the White House on his own initiative—not because I recruited him," Mr. Haldeman wrote. "He was soon to become an Air Force General. I have never understood why he insisted, against my advice, on dropping his commission or why he suddenly wanted to be part of the Nixon team."

"In view of his subsequent role," Mr. Haldeman went on, "these actions seem even more curious today. Was Butterfield a C.I.A. agent? maybe. I just don't know."

"In retrospect, I'm ambivalent

as to whether the agency was out to get Nixon. I don't dismiss it as an impossibility. I do believe there are a number of unanswered questions about the break-in at the Watergate."

Mr. Haldeman also discussed the relationships among top White House aides who became involved in the scandal. Among his points, he said that he had violated one of his own cardinal rules—"don't assume"—in recruiting John W. Dean 3d to be counsel to President Nixon, because he assumed Mr. Dean had been cleared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation while he was working at the Justice Department.

"If I had seen Dean's F.B.I. dossier it would have barred him from the White House," Mr. Haldeman wrote. "Allegations about a conflict-of-interest charge, however slight, involving his prior affiliation with a law firm would have been enough to concern me about the smoking, whether or not there was any fire."

Mr. Dean testified against President Nixon in the Watergate investigation.

Man Slain; Brother Held

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., June 22 (AP)—Wilbur Elliott, 43 years old, of Bridgeport was shot to death today at his home during a family argument, the police said. A brother, Robert Elliott, 39, was arrested and charged with the murder, the police said. He was held without bond.