

**EHRlichMAN'S 'COMPANY'
TO BE ABC SERIES IN '77**

A television series based on "The Company," the new novel by John D. Ehrlichmann, former White House adviser, will be produced by Paramount Pictures' television division for ABC during the 1977-78 season.

Michael Eisner, president of the division, said yesterday that the series of at least eight hours would be a "work of fiction about contemporary Washington, not showing contemporary Washington all good or bad. It will have elements of both. It is not the story of Watergate. It's the story of events that could have led to a breakdown of trust and confidence in Washington."

Mr. Eisner estimated production costs would be \$5 million and advertising costs would bring the total bill to more than \$6 million. He declined to say how much

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Mr. Ehrlichmann had been paid, but did say it was "not a substantial amount." Mr. Ehrlichmann last month began serving a 2½- to 8-year sentence for being found guilty in the White House "plumbers" case.

David W. Rintels created the series and wrote screen plays for the first two episodes. With Eric Bercovicia they also wrote an outline for the remaining episodes and will be supervising producers under Stanley Kallis, executive producer. Production begins next month. An ABC spokesman said no cast had yet been selected.