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# Haldeman's Wife Speaks Out

New York

Former President Nixon never spoke or wrote a word to the H. R. Haldemans regarding his former aide's conviction and imprisonment, Mrs. Haldeman said in an interview in the March issue of the Ladies' Home Journal.

In the article, Joanne Haldeman discusses publicly for the first time the Watergate scandal and the years she and her husband spent in Washington.

About Nixon, Mrs. Haldeman says: "As far as Watergate goes, I certainly don't admire the President's actions. However, I think what happened to Bob, to John Ehrlichman and to John Mitchell has been very hard on Richard Nixon. I feel that it has affected him emotionally, deeply, it's just that he's not able to express these feelings openly. What to say? 'Gee, I'm sorry?'"

Referring to the prison sentence her husband is now serving, she says, "There are lines at Lompoc prison that Bob cannot step across until he is released. But the walls at San Clemente (Nixon's residence) are inescap-

able. There are all kinds of prisons. I'll take Lompoc."

She says she can handle the ordeal of awaiting her husband's release — he will be eligible for parole in June. And she reveals that she opposed her husband's decision to ask the President for a pardon during the closing days of the Nixon administration.

"I felt we had to stand on our own record," she says, "and let the people judge. And to me, it would have been very uncomfortable to live with a pardon.

"I think our lives will speak for themselves," she says. "They didn't begin with Nixon and they won't end with Nixon. But if people want to judge us and remember us by Watergate, then so be it. I can live with that, too."

One time, at the height of the Watergate crisis, Mrs. Haldeman composed an "open letter" of support and compassion to all the Watergate wives. But Haldeman's lawyer, John Wilson, vetoed her idea of mailing the letter to the Washington Post.

"The moment this letter is published," Wilson said, "then



Ladies' Home Journal

H. R. Haldeman and his wife, Joanne, posed with dog Rufus last December during his leave from Lompoc

you are linked with the break-in. You are tying yourself to people you don't know and with whom you may not wish to be connected."

When a story in the Post claimed that Haldeman had supervision over a \$700,000 secret slash fund, Mrs. Haldeman

says she felt deeply concerned. She pressed her husband on the matter, and he expressed amazement. She says he told her he might well have had such authority to sign checks, but that, if so, he was totally unaware of it.

United Press