

'I've done nothing illegal' — Haldeman

LOS ANGELES—Former top White House aide H. R. Haldeman declared himself innocent in the Watergate scandals Monday but said it was "obvious some things were wrong."

Speaking out for the first time since he was indicted, Haldeman told a news conference at his home:

"I've done nothing illegal or improper."

Later he added, "I have done nothing wrong, but I will not comment on whether I think others have done something wrong."

"It's obvious some things were wrong. Now it's a question of what wrongs were

done and who did them."

Haldeman was tanned and looked rested when he met newsmen in front of his Tudor style house.

"I am absolutely certain the trial will show I am innocent," he said. "I'm not happy to be indicted but I have every confidence in the American judicial system."

Also indicted Friday were former top presidential aides John D. Ehrlichman, John N. Mitchell, Charles W. Colson, Robert C. Mardian and Gordon Strachan and Kenneth W. Parkinson, attorney for the Committee to Re-elect the President.

Haldeman refused to comment on any details of his indictment, saying, "Judge John J. Sirica issued instructions that we cannot comment on the case and I will abide by Judge Sirica's instructions."

Haldeman, dressed in a blue blazer and dark trousers, appeared to be in good spirits and smiled frequently as he spoke to newsmen.

Asked if he would make any bargains to better his position in the forthcoming trial, he said "No. I'm innocent."

He said he had spoken to President Nixon since the indictment, presumably during the weekend, but refused to say what he and the President discussed. He said he was not in a position to comment on or evaluate the case.

Asked if he would have served on the presidential staff if he had known what the eventual outcome would be, Haldeman said, "Certainly I would serve the President again. I am completely proud and appreciative of the chance I had to work with and serve one of the great presidents this country has ever had."

Meir to reconsider

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel Monday agreed to wait another two days before making a final decision on whether to resign. In the meantime she will talk to leaders of her Labor party who are trying to convince her to stay on.

Israeli President Ephraim Katzir announced after a meeting with Mrs. Meir that she had agreed to keep her mandate to form a new government until midnight Wednesday as originally scheduled. She had said Sunday that she saw no point in continuing her efforts and intended to return the mandate Monday.

"Mrs. Meir, to my great pleasure, will continue in her efforts until the end of the period to form a workable coalition," Katzir told newsmen.

Katzir later received a delegation of leaders of the rightwing opposition Likud group, which Mrs. Meir is trying to keep out of the government.

Before her meeting with Katzir, the 75-year-old Mrs. Meir received dozens of Labor party leaders who pleaded with her to change her mind.

watch for VARIATION

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from the wires of United Press International
Compiled by Tom Sawyer
Wire Editor

3 'plumbers' indictments expected

WASHINGTON—Three men who worked for the White House "plumbers"—two of whom helped bug the Watergate—will be indicted this week in connection with the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, sources familiar with the case said Monday.

The second of the Watergate grand juries is expected to return indictments about midweek.

According to the sources, the grand jury is expected to indict, among others, Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez and Filipe de Diego.

Senate forces showdown

WASHINGTON—The Senate Monday refused to cut or postpone a pay raise for members of Congress, setting up an all-or-nothing showdown on the salary increases.

In two separate votes, the Senate crushed attempts to work out a compromise that would bring members of Congress fatter paychecks without outraging voters in an election year.

That left the Senate in the position of either killing the pay raise proposed by President Nixon, approving it, or letting it automatically go into effect at midnight Saturday.

White House may have anti-aircraft

WASHINGTON—The White House Secret Service has added an anti-aircraft missile system to its arsenal since an Army private landed a helicopter on the White House lawn, according to *Aviation Week* magazine. *Aviation Week* in its current issue said the missile was the "Redeye," an anti-aircraft system which can be fired from the shoulder.

The Secret Service Monday described the report as inaccurate but declined to discuss what new security measures had been invoked since the helicopter incident on Feb. 17. A spokesman said the service had a long standing policy of not discussing security changes.

Objections overruled Mitchell trial opens

NEW YORK—The Mitchell-Stans trial was ordered to go ahead Monday over the objections of defense attorneys who opened their case by saying there was no evidence to show any wrongdoing by the once powerful Nixon Cabinet officers accused of obstructing justice.

Testimony began immediately after opening statements by lawyers for John N. Mitchell, former attorney general, and Maurice H. Stans, former commerce secretary, each charged with 10 counts of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury. Conviction on all charges could send each defendant to jail for 50 years.

Mitchell and Stans are accused of using their political influence to try to impede a federal investigation of fugitive financier Robert L. Vesco in exchange for his secret \$200,000 contribution to the Nixon 1972 campaign, which the men headed up.

The Watergate grand jury in Washington returned indictments Friday against Mitchell and six others—also charging justice obstruction, perjury, and conspiracy—in an alleged cover-up of the Watergate scandals.

Stan's attorney told the jury that Stans would testify in his own defense, but nothing was said about Mitchell taking the stand.

U. S. District Court Judge Lee P. Gagliardi denied a motion for a mistrial which had been presented by the defense on Friday.

Gagliardi said he had concluded the jury—eight men and four women—could not have drawn an inference of guilt from the opening statement Friday of prosecutor James W. Rayhill. The defense argues that when Rayhill had told the jury to "put yourselves in the place of the grand jurors" who indicted the defendants there would be a natural inference of guilt.

The judge said that the jury had been amply instructed on the fact that an indictment is merely an accusation and that all defendants stand innocent unless proven guilty.

Mitchell's attorney, Peter Fleming Jr., told the jury the evidence would show "there's not a single speck, fragment, of evidence that John Mitchell did anything to fix, to stop, to influence an investigation of Robert Vesco."

Heath out—Wilson in

LONDON—Prime Minister Edward Heath resigned Monday after nearly four years at the head of a Conservative party government and Queen Elizabeth named Labor party leader Harold Wilson to succeed him.

Wilson at once called on Britons to rally around his government as "one people" after the bitter election contest.

"We've got a job to do," said a serious-faced Wilson, standing on the steps of the prime minister's No. 10 Downing St. office after the queen named him to head a government.

"We can only do that job as one people and I'm going right in to do that job now."

His wife Mary stood beside him. She accompanied her husband to Buckingham Palace, but waited downstairs during his 60-minute audience with the queen.

Wilson planned to form a minority Labor

party government without a coalition or alliance with any other party.

Labor party treasurer James Callaghan said Wilson will name his key ministers Tuesday and also see heads of the 10 million-member Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industry which represents about 12,000 industrial firms.

His first priority task, Labor party officials said, was to try to end the crippling national strike by 269,000 coal miners, now in its fourth week.

COs not due benefits

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday that conscientious objectors who perform alternative service instead of serving in the military are not entitled to GI educational benefits.

In a brief order without opinion, the Court also upheld a Florida court decision that fathers have no right to prevent a woman from obtaining an abortion.

In an 8-1 decision with justice William O. Douglas dissenting, the Court held the Veterans Administration did not violate constitutional rights when it refused to extend education benefits to conscientious objectors.

In the other case, a 27-year-old Florida man, identified in legal briefs only with a pseudonym, had asked that his 19-year-old former girl friend be prevented from obtaining an abortion.

A Florida appeals court cited two 1973 Supreme Court decisions holding that a woman's right to privacy "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy."

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