

Nixon Names Laird

Domestic Adviser;

Kansas City Police

Chief Will Head FBI

Haig to Direct Staff, Retire From Army

Ziegler Gets Larger Role

6/7/73
By Lou Cannon

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President Nixon brought former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird back into his Watergate-shaken administration yesterday as chief domestic adviser and named Gen. Alexander Haig to head the White House staff.

Laird promptly indicated that the appointments were part of a concerted administration effort to restore confidence in the U.S. government both at home and abroad.

"It's absolutely essential

that we get on with the business of government," Laird told a White House news conference. "Government in some quarters is at a standstill and this cannot be allowed to continue."

As part of the administration reshuffle, Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler was given the title of assistant to the President while retaining his press secretary's duties. Since the President first acknowledged a Watergate cover-up by White House staff members on March 21, Ziegler has played an increasingly important policy role in the administration and turned over many of the daily briefing chores to his deputy, Gerald L. Warren.

The 50-year-old Laird, a longtime personal friend of Mr. Nixon, was given the title of counselor to the President for domestic affairs and inherits many of the responsibilities held by John Ehrlichman, one of the leading Watergate casualties of the Nixon second term.

But there were hints that Laird, who came out of semi-retirement and gave up his congressional pension

pay to take the job, may be even more influential than was Ehrlichman.

"The man makes the job and particularly in the case of Mr. Laird," said Warren in announcing the appointment.

Laird said he had been personally assured by the President that Mr. Nixon was not involved in the Watergate case or the subsequent cover-up. On May 1 Laird told reporters that he would not want to know if Mr. Nixon were involved but he said yesterday that he was speaking as a private citizen then and did not hold that view as a government official.

One of Laird's top priorities, he told reporters, will be restoring faith in the confidence of the dollar abroad.

"Those people who are speculating against the dollar are making a very grave error," Laird said in reference to European money dealers.

Laird said he will make new recommendations to the President for action to curb inflation and defend the dollar but he declined to say what these proposals would be.

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