

S F 1/1/73
Haldeman

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, I had hoped and expected to have had an earlier opportunity to clear up various allegations and innuendoes that have been raised in connection with matters related to the Watergate case. It now appears that this process may consume considerable time. Meanwhile, there is apparently to be no interruption in the flood of stories arising every every day from all sorts of sources.

I fully agree with the importance of a complete investigation by the appropriate authorities of all the factors that may be involved, but am deeply concerned that, in the process, it has become virtually impossible, under these circumstances for me to carry on my regular responsibilities in the White House.

It is imperative that the work of the office of the President not be impeded and your staff must be in a position to focus their attention on the vital areas of domestic and international concern that face you, rather than being diverted by the daily rumors and developments in the Watergate

case. For these reasons, I submit my resignation as assistant to the President.

I intend to cooperate fully with the investigation — and will at my request be meeting this week for that purpose with the U.S. attorneys and with the counsel to the Senate select committee.

I am convinced that, in due course, I will have the opportunity not just to clear up any allegations or implications of impropriety but also to demonstrate that I have always met the high and exacting standards of integrity which you have so clearly and properly demanded of all who serve on the White House staff.

I have full confidence that when the truth is known the American people will be totally justified in their pride in the office of the President and in the conduct of that office by President Nixon.

Respectfully,

H. R. Haldeman.