

# Haig Drops Criticism of Richardson

Washington

Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (Rep-Md.) said yesterday that White House staff chief Alexander Haig has declined an invitation to back up his charge that former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson did not tell the truth in congressional testimony about his role in the firing of Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Mathias released a December 12 letter from Haig saying further dispute over the matter "can serve no disclaiming any intention to discredit Richardson, impugn his integrity or cast doubt on his veracity."

Mathias interpreted the Haig letter as a confession by the White House aide that his charges against Richardson, made at a White House "truth session" with senators November 14 at which Mathias was present, couldn't be substantiated.

*United Press*