

Nixon Order

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1974

Dear General Haig:

I am informed that you have been subpoenaed to testify before the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities on May 2, 1974.

It would be wholly inappropriate for the Committee to examine you about your activities as Chief of Staff or about information that has come to you in that position since your assumption of your present duties in May, 1973, or in your earlier position as a member of the staff of the National Security Council.

A President's Chief of Staff is inevitably very close to the President and functions as the President's right arm. He is often the means by which the President communicates with his lawyers on matters that are within the attorney-client privilege. It is also the means by which the President communicates with other members of the Executive Branch.

In your former capacity as a senior member of the National Security Council staff, you dealt with the most sensitive categories of information relating to the national security.

Whatever differences there are about the reaches of executive privilege generally, I am confident that the members of the Senate Select Committee will recognize that it is essential to any President that he be able to talk with complete freedom and candor with the person that occupies such a close relationship with him and who works so closely with him on the full range of executive functions.

While I have made every effort to waive privilege for former and present members of my staff to testify before the Senate Select Committee, I must regretfully decline in your case.

You are, therefore, directed not to testify about any information received or activities undertaken while you served as my Chief of Staff or as a member of the National Security Council staff.

Sincerely,



General Alexander M. Haig, Jr. (USA-Ret.)
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

UPI Telephoto

A copy of Mr. Nixon's letter to Haig