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E.P.A. AIDE OUSTED OVER MEMO LEAK

He Had Been Linked to a Campaign Strategy Plan

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (UPI)—The Environmental Protection Agency dismissed its legislative director today after the publication of confidential memorandums linking the agency's environmental policies with President Nixon's re-election campaign. The agency's administrator,

NYTimes

William D. Ruckelshaus, announced that he was accepting the resignation of Howard A. Cohen, 30 years old, who joined the Federal agency on Oct. 26.

An agency spokesman confirmed that Mr. Cohen's resignation was requested because of a New York Times article connecting Mr. Cohen with confidential memorandums outlining how E.P.A. legislative strategy should be dovetailed with Mr. Nixon's campaign and those of farm-state Republican Congressmen.

Gary H. Baise, Mr. Ruckelshaus's assistant since the agency was formed 13 months ago, was named to replace Mr. Cohen.

In an interview, Mr. Cohen attributed his dismissal to unfair reporting by The Times. He said that he never wrote the memorandums and that Mr. Ruckelshaus was not aware they existed.

'Written for Me'

"They were written for me, for my personal use, when I was just seven or eight weeks on the job," Mr. Cohen said. "They were intended for my personal reading. I never forwarded them to Ruckelshaus because I did not agree with some of the strategy."

Mr. Cohen said that members of his staff wrote the memorandums at his request to reflect the views of some

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Republicans. He said The Times's reporter "would have known that if he had called me and checked before he wrote his story."

The Times's article, published Saturday, quoted Mr. Cohen as having told the E.P.A.'s regional administrators on Jan. 12 that he would be working part-time for Mr. Nixon's re-election.

"The President is in an election year and needs some legislative victories," The Times quoted Mr. Cohen as having said.

The article said that Mr. Cohen had told the administrators that the Nixon Administration was willing to let Congress weaken some bills, in-

cluding one that would control pesticides, to appease the bill's opponents and help elect Mr. Nixon and Republican Congressional candidates from farm states, where pesticide controls may be unpopular.

The memorandums elaborated on the legislative strategy, suggesting that the agency work quietly with Senators Herman E. Talmadge of Georgia and James B. Allen, Alabama, both Democrats, to resolve any differences that might otherwise be exploited by either of two Democratic Presidential candidates, Senators George McGovern of South Dakota and Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota.

Mr. Talmadge is chairman of

the Senate Agriculture Committee, and Mr. Allen chairs the agriculture subcommittee that is considering the pesticides bill. Mr. McGovern and Mr. Humphrey are members of the Agriculture Committee.

Heading on Memos

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—The confidential memorandums that Mr. Cohen denied having written were distributed to regional administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency on Jan. 12. The first page was headed by these words: "Prepared by Howard A. Cohen, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency."