

Haig, Buzhardt Said to Face Inquiry on Tapes

By John P. MacKenzie
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Watergate special prosecutors are expected soon to summon former White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. and former counsel J. Fred Buzhardt before a federal grand jury here, a national magazine reports in its forthcoming issue out Monday.

The New Republic said the former top aides to President Nixon will be asked about the preparation of the edited transcripts of White House tape recordings Nixon released publicly on April 30, 1974, with a televised statement that the entire Watergate story had been told.

A spokesman for the Water-

gate prosecutor's office confirmed that an investigation was under way to see whether federal laws were violated in handling the transcripts. He refused, however, to discuss any impending grand jury action.

The transcripts, which Nixon said fully complied with the demands for tapes by the prosecutor and the House Judiciary Committee, proved to be highly selective and inaccurate. Omissions and inaccuracies, when compared with the tapes, turned out to be mostly in favor of Nixon's claim that he was innocent of wrongdoing.

The tape of a June 23, 1972, conversation between Nixon and H. R. Haldeman, then his

White House chief of staff, was edited to omit the damaging remarks that triggered Nixon's resignation last August shortly after it and other tapes were released. The unedited tape showed that on June 23 Nixon personally ordered a cover-up of the facts about the illegal entry into the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters six days earlier on June 17, 1972. Until its release last year, Nixon contended he was not involved in the cover-up.

Lawyers familiar with the criminal law said the prosecution might be difficult because the misleading of a congressional committee and government investigators, even if proved, did not seem to fall

within existing criminal statutes.

The magazine said the Watergate prosecutor was interested in finding out who selected and edited the 46 taped conversations that were published in a thick blue volume. It said the accuracy of presidential lawyer James D. St. Clair's statement in a foreword to the volume — that only irrelevant material had been omitted — also would come under scrutiny.

Still another item of prosecution interest, the magazine said, was who destroyed an original transcript from which the edited transcripts were taken and why.

Nixon has been pardoned for any offenses he may have

committed, but the pardon does not extend to his aides.

Prosecutor Receives More Nixon Tapes

United Press International

Watergate Special Prosecutor Henry S. Ruth Jr. said yesterday his office had received more Nixon tape-recordings and papers—this time with the former President's blessing—for use in criminal investigations.

For that reason, Ruth said in a memorandum filed in federal court, the special prosecutor may soon seek to withdraw as an intervenor in Richard M. Nixon's court fight to regain custody of his presidential tapes and documents.

Ruth said there would be

"no reason" for him to continue in the case, since he soon expects to have all the Nixon materials in hand that he needs to wrap up his investigations.

"As of this date a substantial number of the relevant files have been reviewed, and the special prosecutor's office has received a great number of pertinent documents," Ruth advised the three-judge panel that is handling the Nixon case. "Additionally, we have received or listened to a number of tapes of recorded conversations.

"Under these existing procedures, we expect that within the relatively near future we will have received substantially all the materials for which we have indicated a need."