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Nader Says Haig Can't Take Post

It "appears" to violate the law to let Gen. Alexander M. Haig serve as chief White House staff officer while he is still on active duty, Ralph Nader's Public Citizen Inc. group said yesterday. An Army spokesman said the objection "is under consideration." Pentagon officials added that they foresaw no legal problem with Haig going to the White House job because President Nixon, as commander-in-chief, can order officers to assume whatever duties he desires.

The Nader letter, sent to Secretary of Defense Elliot L. Richardson, Army Secretary Robert F. Froehlke and White House counsel Leonard Garment, cited Section 973 (b) of Title 10 of the U.S. Code in objecting to Haig's serving as presidential assistant -while still vice chief, of staff for the Army.

This section cited says: "Except as otherwise provided by law, no officer on the active duty list of the regular Army, regular Navy, regular Air Force, regular Marine Corps or regular Coast Guard may hold a civil office by election or appointment whether under_the_United_States, a territory or possession or a state. The acceptance of such a civil office or the exercise of its functions by such an officer terminates his military appointment . . ."