

Why Cook Quit As SEC Chairman

Washington

G. Bradford Cook says he quit as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission after he told the White House he feared impeachment proceedings, the Washington Star-News reported yesterday.

The paper said Cook stated in an interview he decided to resign May 16 during a meeting with General Alexander Haig, the new White House chief of staff.

He said he was summoned to the meeting over "this Vesco thing."

Cook stepped down as SEC head after it was disclosed he had deleted from a SEC complaint against financier Robert L. Vesco all reference to a \$200,000 contribution Vesco made to President Nixon's re-election

campaign.

The Star-News reported that Cook said he discussed with Haig the fact that he had been questioned the day before by a Senate subcommittee. And he said he had been asked to appear that afternoon in closed session with a House subcommittee headed by Representative Harley O. Staggers Dem-W.Va.), the paper reported.

"Staggers was loaded for bear," Cook was quoted as saying. "I had a couple of calls saying Staggers was calling for impeachment. I just thought, 'who needs that?'"

"I said in light of that, maybe it would be best for me to resign," he continued. He said Haig agreed, the Star-News reported.

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