

Haig, on Nixon's Order, Refuses Questions of Watergate Panel

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By The Associated Press MAY 3 1974

WASHINGTON, May 2—Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the Presidential chief of staff, refused to answer questions before the Senate Watergate committee today, Senate sources said.

General Haig presented a letter from President Nixon at an executive session of the panel, saying, "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."

Mr. Nixon's letter invoked both executive privilege and the attorney-client privilege in ordering General Haig not to cooperate with the committee's investigation.

He was to be questioned by the assistant chief counsel,

Terry F. Lenzner, who has been investigating a \$100,000 gift from Howard R. Hughes, the billionaire, to C. G.

Rebozo, President Nixon's close friend.

General Haig appeared for the session accompanied by the President's Watergate counsel,

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James D. St. Clair, who advised General Haig not to answer each time a question was asked, the sources said.

The sources said that General Haig, who formerly worked on the staff of the National Security Council, was asked whether he had discussed with any individuals any criminal actions.

General Haig was also asked whether he had called Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson about the Hughes-Rebozo investigation on Oct. 18, 1973, the sources said. Mr. Richardson resigned two days later rather than dismiss the former special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, whose office reportedly was looking into the \$100,000 contribution.

According to the sources, account, the President's chief of staff was also asked specifically whether he had discussed the Hughes-Rebozo money with a long list of Nixon associates and their lawyers.

These included H. R. Halde- man, John D. Ehrlichman and Charles W. Colson, three former Nixon aides; Herbert W. Kalmbach and Frank DeMarco, Nixon lawyers; Rose Mary Woods; the President's secre-

tary; F. Donald Nixon and Edward Nixon, the President's brothers; Robert F. Abplanalp, another close friend of the President; and attorneys for Mr. Rebozo, Mr. Abplanalp and the former White House aides.

A Curb on Privilege

The President announced last May 22 that he would not claim executive privilege for anyone on the White House staff regarding questions about criminal conduct.

But in his letter to General Haig, Mr. Nixon said: "While I have made every effort to waive privilege for former and present members of my staff to testify before the Senate Select [Watergate] Committee, I must regretfully decline in your case."

General Haig, the President said, has handled Presidential communications with his lawyers and with other members of the executive branch, functioning as "the President's right arm."

"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," the letter said.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MAY 3 1974

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.

United Press International

The letter from President Nixon to his chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., directing him not to testify before the Senate Watergate committee.