

This time Haig testifies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — White House Chief of Staff Alexander Haig Jr. has testified before the Senate Watergate Committee after being

threatened with contempt of Congress citation if he kept silent.

Haig testified yesterday about a \$100,000 payment from billionaire Howard

Hughes to C. G. "Bebe" Rebozo, President Nixon's friend.

He had refused to answer questions in an earlier appearance, but yesterday he said Nixon had waived executive privilege to let him testify.

The New York Times and CBS News reported that Haig told the committee he was warned a year ago about an investigation of the Hughes contribution by then Deputy Treasury Secretary William Simon.

Both news organizations, quoting sources familiar with his testimony, said Haig told the committee that Simon also briefed presidential aide Leonard Garment about the investigation by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Times said Haig testified Nixon was informed of the matter and told him several days later to put Rebozo in touch with a tax lawyer.

Simon, former energy chief who last week became Treasury secretary, had never previously been connected with any Watergate matters.

After invoking executive

privilege on May 2, Haig was warned by some committee members that he could be cited for contempt of Congress.

The committee is investigating the Hughes-Rebozo money to learn if part of it was given or lent to members of the President's family or to his employees.

The committee also decided to postpone its long-awaited final report to at least June 30 and to avoid making any conclusions as to the guilt or innocence of Watergate figures, including Nixon.

The panel voted unanimously to ask the Senate to extend its mandate, retain its subpoena power and grant it \$200,000 more, sources said.

Meanwhile, Nixon's former appointments secretary, Dwight Chapin, was sentenced to 10 months in prison for lying to a grand jury.

Chapin said he would appeal to the Supreme Court if necessary and added, "I've always told the truth when questioned under oath—I'm very proud of that."

He was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gerhard Ge-



ALEXANDER HAIG AFTER TESTIFYING
With Nixon Counsel J. Fred Buzhardt

—AP Photo

seli. who said, "The proof that the defendant deliberately lied was overwhelm-

ing."

Chapin said he still be-

lieves in President Nixon's innocence and said the portrait of him as perceived

from the transcripts does not reflect the character of the total man.