

Haig Testimony Supports

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Presidential chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. yesterday backed up Henry A. Kissinger's testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that orders for the wiretapping of aides and newsmen came from the President.

In almost three hours of testimony Haig, who served as Kissinger's deputy, told the committee that the wiretapping program to discover the sources of leaks was carried out under the specific approval of the President.

Haig was accompanied by J. Fred Buzhardt, making one of his first appearances since his heart attack. The hearing was the last in a series following Kissinger's request that the committee look once again into his role in the wiretapping, after the release of FBI documents that named the Secretary as the person who requested the taps.

A committee report is expected within a week to 10 days, Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright told reporters.

From the remarks of senators who have been present at the hearings, it appears that Kissinger will get the clean bill of health he sought, even though a number of senators now seem to feel that his role was somewhat less passive than originally described.

Kissinger had said his role was limited to supplying the names of persons with access to classified material that had been leaked to the press. But some senators feel that it was partly his zeal to get at leaks and his concern that secret diplomatic initiatives might

become known that led to the wiretapping program.

But no senator has indicated that the testimony differs in any substantive way from that given in September by Kissinger during his confirmation hearings.

Fulbright acknowledged a "semantic" difficulty between the words "initiate" and "instigate." The chairman had asked Kissinger in September

whether he had "initiated" any taps and the secretary-designate replied "no." The program was initiated, both Kissinger and Haig have testified, at a meeting of the President, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

On the question of Kissinger's role in "instigating" the taps because of his concern over the leaks of classified

material, Fulbright was vague.

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) said that both Kissinger and Haig were operating under instructions from "the highest authority" and that neither had acted on his own. Haig, Symington said, "confirmed the fact that Dr. Kissinger did not instigate any tapping at any time." Symington said Haig told the committee he had dealt mainly with

Kissinger

William Sullivan, the No. 3 man at the FBI, and that he had seen Hoover only once or twice. "Kissinger and Haig come out very well in the sense that no taps were originated by them and it was done on the highest authority," Symington said.

Haig said he brought Buzhardt with him because of his familiarity with the FBI files concerning the wiretapping.