

Haig snarls at Senate, calls scandal 'stupid'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alexander M. Haig called the Watergate scandal "illegal and stupid" Tuesday, and denied he was involved in any way as a trusted aide to President Richard M. Nixon.

Haig, who is President-elect Ronald Reagan's nominee to be secretary of state, portrayed himself instead as a White House chief of staff who fought to keep Nixon from becoming enmeshed in criminal acts in the final months of his presidency.

On the fourth day of his confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the retired four-star general and former NATO commander exploded in anger under persistent questioning

Two Seattle daily papers join operations

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Times and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer announced Tuesday an agreement for a joint newspaper-operating arrangement.

Under the proposed agreement, subject to federal government approval, the two newspapers will have separate news departments, but The Times will run the production, advertising, circulation and business functions of both papers.

Also under terms of the proposed arrangement:

- There will be only one Sunday newspaper. It will carry the joint masthead of The Seattle Times and The Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Each newspaper will have its separate editorial and comic sections in the joint Sunday paper.

- The P-I will be published six mornings a week. The Times will be published five afternoons a week, Saturday mornings and all holiday mornings. The Times will discontinue Monday-through-Friday morning editions which it began last February.

- No change of ownership is involved. The P-I is owned by The Hearst Corp. The Times is jointly owned by a Seattle family and the Knight-Ridder Newspapers.

- The Hearst Corp. will retain sole responsibility for news and editorial material in The P-I, and The Times will retain sole responsibility for its news and editorial material.

Implementation of the joint agency arrangement is subject to a number of conditions, including negotiations with labor unions and approval of the U.S. attorney general under the federal Newspaper Preservation Act.

from Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, D-Md., who sought Haig's "value judgments" about the right and wrongs of Watergate.

"I never went along with or supported anything I believed to be illegal," said Haig, who testified under oath at his own request.

"Suggestions came up from time to time," Haig said. "And on every occasion I fought it, rejected it or prevented it."

"I have not ever indulged in something that is wrong or illegal. ... Others did. That's clear. The record is clear. We saw the volumes of it. ... Do you expect me to endorse what was done? No way ..."

Haig acknowledged that "mistakes were made," but said he wasn't at the White House when the break-in at the Democratic National Committee took place in June 1972 or when senior White House officials tried to cover up evidence.

"Mistakes were made," he said. "No one is discounting the

fact that they were made. I didn't make them. I wasn't there when they were made. I happened to inherit the situation and the consequences of those mistakes."

Later in the day, Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., urged the committee to approve Haig for Senate confirmation and Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., asked rejection of Haig's nomination.

Goldwater said the country owes Haig a debt of gratitude. "If Nixon had stood for impeachment, I doubt if this country would have lived through the eight months that would have taken," Goldwater said.

"Haig saw his duty and tried to get Nixon to quit before he

ruined the country. I take my hat off to this man."

Weicker said that "in the absence of their superior's adherence to the law, honorable men either speak up or get out."

He said Haig did not do that, "and I therefore assume him to have either lacked integrity, disdained the Constitution or unquestioningly followed orders."

Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., said he and other senators were "pleading" for a promise from Haig that "these kinds of stains

on America will not happen again."

Sarbanes asked Haig repeatedly whether he considered Watergate wrong. The senator said he was concerned more about Haig's attitude toward Nixon's "abuses" than about whether Haig was directly involved.

Other senators joined in asking that question, and finally Haig replied, "It was both illegal and stupid. And I think if President Nixon were here, he would say it was stupid."

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