

Date: December 23, 1980

To: Mitch  
Fm: Rich

Re: HAIG role in Watergate events

Based on my reading of the materials that have been collected to date there are four matters which have potential relevance for the Haig confirmation hearings:

1. Haig's role in attempting to deny Watergate tapes to Jaworski, particularly the attempts a) to get Jaworski to join with Nixon in stating that the tapes contained no evidence of Nixon's involvement based upon a reading of Nixon's summary of the tapes and b) Haig's role in arranging and offering the Stennis compromise even after he knew of the gap in one tape and the absence of two others asked for by Jaworski. Also of interest is Haig's subsequent statement in Sirica's court about the "sinister force" erasing the tape.
2. Haig's role in the firing of Archibald Cox. This centers on the statement made to Ruckelshaus about "the Commander in Chief".
3. The conversation between Haig and Nixon on tape of June 4, 1973 in which he appears to be counseling the President to state that he cannot recall what was said on March 21st regarding the payment of hush money to Howard Hunt.
4. Haig's role in the Nixon resignation and the subsequent pardoning of Nixon by President Ford.

Based on the secondary sources to date, absent access to the tapes themselves, it is hard to see a fruitful line of questioning. We should, of course, continue looking for other relevant connections and fully develop the background for Paul on each of the above so that should the investigators for the Committee come up with new information, we will have the capability of putting it into useful context.