

# Excerpts From News Conference With Reagan's Cabinet Choices

Following are excerpts from a transcript of a news conference in Washington yesterday at which four persons were introduced as Cabinet choices of President-elect Ronald Reagan. The conference was recorded by *The New York Times*.

**JAMES S. BRADY** (press secretary for the Reagan transition effort):

The President-elect today announced his intention to nominate four persons to be members of his Cabinet. They are:

James G. Watt to be Secretary of the Interior; Samuel R. Pierce Jr. to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; James B. Edwards to be Secretary of Energy; Jeane J. Kirkpatrick to be United States representative to the United Nations. Also joining today are Alexander Haig, the President-elect's nominee for Secretary of State, and Raymond Donovan, the nominee for Secretary of Labor.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Cabinet designees will take your questions:

**Q.** General Haig, the Carter Administration seems to have rejected the Iranian demand for \$24 billion as the price of freeing the hostages. Do you think the Administration was right to do that? And if the hostages are still there when you take office, do you have any new ideas for getting them back?

**HAIG:** I had a somewhat detailed discussion with Secretary of State Muskie this morning on this subject. As you probably know, I'm just starting — getting ready on to a number of highly dynamic, highly sensitive and highly important foreign policy subjects.

At this juncture we have one President and one Secretary of State. And I think it behooves all of us to rally behind these gentlemen so long as they are in office and to support them, and I intend to do so and not to offer any off-hand observations of my own on this highly sensitive important subject.

**Q.** General Haig, if you review the record of the White House years when you served as chief of staff and offered advice to the former President preparing for confirmation hearing, do you in hindsight have any regrets about the advice you gave or the actions you took with respect, let's say, to wiretaps involving journalists or the Cambodian bombing campaign?

**A.** I'd have been disappointed had you not raised the subject. Let me set the record straight on this subject this afternoon for this conference. Clearly, there've been a number of recent reports by our press in Washington and elsewhere dealing with past American history and my involvement. I think it's important for all of us to keep in mind that I have appeared before several grand juries, Senate investigating committees, courts of law on these subjects and nothing during that period indicated any culpability on my part. That has been reaffirmed recently by Mr. Leon Jaworski, the chief prosecutor at the time.

I think these are topics in any event which members of the Senate will wish to explore with me and I am prepared

to do my very best to answer their questions across the full gamut of their concern and I would prefer in any event today to leave the first questions on these topics to the members of the Foreign Relations Committee. And, therefore, I will avoid any substantive responses on the subject.

**Q.** Mr. Haig, as a military man, you do give concern to many people about the subject of peace because generals usually receive their immortality and glory from wars and not from peace. What assurances are you going to give us as you will try to keep in peace?

**A.** I know of no rational military man, especially one in our heritage — American heritage — who would be anything but a avid proponent for international stability and peace with justice.

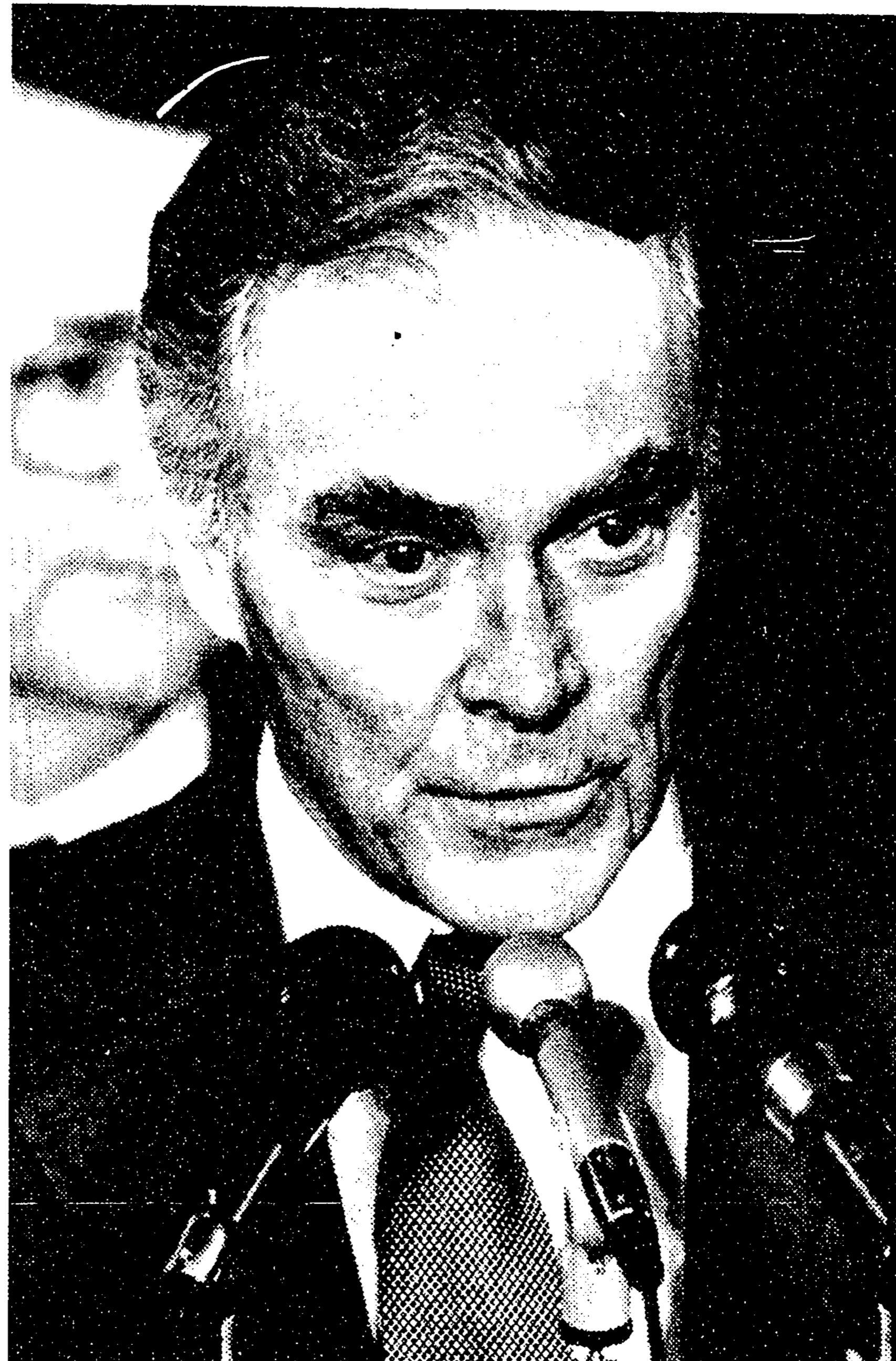
And I, myself, am a great adherent to civilian control. I have always been. And so I would hope that in the legacy of George Marshall, one of our greatest Secretaries of State who you know was a military man, professional, that I can make somewhat comparable contribution.

**Q.** Can you elaborate upon the word trouble? Are we in the same kind of trouble now that you tried to keep us out of several years ago?

**A.** Well, I think it goes without saying that America today has experienced a number of setbacks internationally. The prestige with which we were once held and viewed not only among long-standing friends and allies in Europe and Asia and in this hemisphere, but also among those vitally important third world nations upon whose future goodwill if not convergence of policy our own vital future interests so fundamentally to bear that there is a great deal of work to be done in the period ahead. And I think I said at the Republican National Convention that we Americans must in the period ahead — indeed, we will one way or another — make a decision as to whether or not we're going to continue to seek a world structured on the Christian-Judeo values that you and I cherish today, or whether we're going to risk turning that task over to others who do not share those beliefs.

**Q.** Mr. Watt, do you support the goals of the so-called sagebrush rebellion . . . (inaudible).

**A. WATT:** There are two parts to that answer — to that question. Number One, I have been a part of the sagebrush rebellion. Rebellion has sprung up in the last three to four years because of oppressive actions taken by the Department of Interior manage-



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**Alexander M. Haig Jr., the Secretary of State-designate, speaking with reporters at news conference yesterday in Washington.**

ment team. There has been a policy that has ignored the good neighbor attitudes that the Government must have. As you know in the West, the Department of Interior is the dominant landowner and mineral holder.

The solution to the sagebrush rebellion does not need to be massive transfers of Federal lands to private or to states — to the states. Instead, the solution to the sagebrush rebellion is good management that will put aside the oppressive landlord attitudes and come in with a good neighbor attitude to work with the states, the local government and the user to see that there's a balanced use of our national resource environment, common sense approach will be used and that the resources will be used for the people of America. When

served as director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which is the preservation side of that department. And the Department of Interior is made up as a group of agencies that have statutory responsibilities for development of our resource base.

It also has bureaus and agencies that fought for preservation. There will be tremendous conflicts in the Department of Interior as there has been in the past and the — the art of managing that department will require some common-sense approaches that will bring a balance to the management of our resources.

The extremists that have been referred to are those who deny — would deny economic development, those that would deny the balanced management or resources for the benefit of consumers and for all of America. We cannot afford to lock up or utilize our basic resources for one specific purpose. We must have multiple use of those resources as Congress has ordered through the years. It will be my commitment to bring that balanced type of management so that we will not have one of these special-interest groups from either side of the House dominating the policy-making of the Department of Interior.

**Q.** Governor Edwards, how long will it take you to dismantle the Department of Energy and how do you propose to go about doing it?

**A. EDWARDS:** Someone said if I do, I ought to be reserved a place on Mount Rushmore, some of my friends. But so far as some of these statements go, I think at this stage we should wait. I haven't talked to the President-elect about his plans for the department. And right now, we have some real world problems that have to be solved and I hope that we can go out there and solve them, these be the world problems, and at the same time, possibly, looks for ways to reduce some of the bureaucracy in that agency and streamline it to make it more effective and efficient to serve the needs of the President, the Congress and the people of America.

that is done, the sagebrush rebellion will be defused. And that's what our goal and objective will be.

**Q.** The conservationists have opposed this nomination. The President-elect has said that you are not against environmentalists, you are opposed to environmental extremists. What is an environmental extremist?

**A.** I'm bringing an interesting dimension to the Department of Interior in that I've spent seven years in that department, divided exactly in half. For three and a half years, I served as Deputy Assistant Secretary and was on the development side of that department. For three and a half years I