
PROFILES

'The Knife': Caspar Weinberger

Both former HEW head Casper Weinberger and former NATO General Alexander Haig have been prominently mentioned for Reagan cabinet posts. EIR provides their records in past administrations.

"In the West Wing of the White House, in the office directly above Henry Kissinger's, sits a slight, gracious man with an abiding interest in music, Shakespeare and English history. On the wall behind his desk is a nineteenth-century painting (on loan from the National Gallery) of General Sir Thomas Pickton, one of the Duke of Wellington's top commanders. On the wall near the doors are portraits of his two heroes: former British Prime Ministers William Pitt and Winston Churchill. Incongruous as it may seem, this outwardly gentle history buff who once studied to be a concert pianist, is one of the most feared men in Washington."

With portraits of two of the British Empire's greatest defenders adorning his walls, it should come as no surprise that Caspar Willard Weinberger, the subject of this description from *Duns Review* in December 1972, is an ardent proponent of the British economic and political system.

A native of San Francisco, born Aug. 18, 1917, Weinberger went East to Harvard for college and received his LL.B. in 1941 from Harvard Law School. After a stint in Army Intelligence, Weinberger became a law clerk in Federal Circuit Court from 1945 until 1947 when he joined a prominent law firm in San Francisco.

In 1952, politically ambitious Weinberger was elected on the Republican ticket to the California State Assembly. His career in California politics included chairing the state Republican Party and serving as a campaign director for George Christopher's 1966 gubernatorial primary run against Ronald Reagan. After Reagan's election, Weinberger was appointed head of the Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy, and in 1968, over the protest of Reagan's conservative advisers, director of state finance.

Nixon's mistake

In 1970 Weinberger was called to Washington by his former California political colleague Richard Nixon to head the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC at that time was under severe attack from Ralph Nader's Raiders, who charged that the agency was too pro-business. Within two months of taking office, Weinber-

ger hired one of Nader's assistants as a personal legal aide, and proceeded to make "consumer protection" the dominant activity of the commission.

When Nixon set up the Office of Management and Budget, he appointed George Shultz as director and Weinberger deputy director.

When an agency head would come to Shultz to appeal a cut in his budget, he would be greeted by the director and then taken over to Weinberger's office. At this point, Shultz would depart with the comment that became infamous throughout the bureaucracy: "I leave you now to the tender mercies of Cap Weinberger."

Weinberger, who by this time had earned the nickname "Cap the Knife" for his budget-slashing propensities, did not, as many believe, merely cut away at the "Great Society" programs launched by the previous two Democratic administrations. Instead, he went right for the core of the U.S. economy. The space program, the leader in scientific research and civilian applications, got the sharp edge of Weinberger's knife.

In the spring of 1972, when Shultz went to Treasury, Weinberger was promoted to director of OMB and continued his budget-cutting rampage. In November he was nominated by Nixon for Secretary of HEW. Despite some congressional protests, he was confirmed on Feb. 8, 1973.

Weinberger's basically Malthusian outlook became more apparent during his stint at HEW. As a member of the U.S. delegation to the 1974 U.N. World Population Conference in Bucharest, Weinberger repeatedly averred that excess population is the prime cause of the world's economic problems. Weinberger urged that the conference set "a world goal of replacement level of fertility by the year 2000." In addition to being a member of the Trilateral Commission, Weinberger is a leader of the California Episcopal Church, and a member of the Bohemian Club.

'The Paperclip': Alexander Haig

Although Gen. Alexander Haig has spent the last several years cultivating a tough-talking, hard-line military image, the fact is that the former NATO Supreme Commander is an employee of the policy circles that have been primarily responsible for America's military and industrial decline.

Alexander Haig is a personal protégé of Henry Kissinger, but he also owes his climb up the political power ladder to self-styled "doves" Cyrus Vance and Joseph Califano—both members of Jimmy Carter's cabinet.

Reagan transition team member John Lehman, who worked closely with Haig at the National Security Council, reports that "Haig is a good friend of James Schles-

inger, Joe Califano and Cy Vance. Haig is personally very, very close to Cy, and they think very highly of one another. In fact, the main influences on Haig have been Fritz Kraemer, Gen. Creighton Abrams, Califano, Vance and Kissinger. And, he was trained at a Jesuit prep school, which gave him a very logical turn of mind. Haig still has a very close relationship to Kissinger. They talk all the time.”

Haig’s entire career has depended on the intervention of influential people. Unable to obtain admission to West Point because of a poor school record, the young Haig attended Notre Dame until his uncle, Col. Chester R. Haig, formerly the personal physician to General Pershing, used his connections to get his nephew into the military where he was graduated 214th out of his 1947 graduating class of 310.

Then, in 1964, he came to the attention of then Secretary of the Army Cyrus Vance, who named him special military assistant. When Vance was appointed deputy secretary of defense, he took Haig with him; in 1964-65, Haig served as special assistant to both Vance and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.

In 1969, Vance’s close friend Joseph Califano, who at the time was general counsel to the army, introduced Haig to Henry Kissinger, who was then in the process of organizing his national security council staff. Kissinger hired Haig as his principal assistant, turning over to him all the day-to-day details of running this key White House unit. From this base, Haig catapulted himself, with the aid of Kissinger and other White House insiders, into becoming Acting President of the United States during the last phase of Nixon’s presidency.

Because of Haig’s desire for the limelight, Haig was quickly able to acquire a controlling position within the NSC. According to *The Final Days*, an account of the Nixon administration’s last days by *Washington Post* reporters Woodward and Bernstein, Haig soon became “almost indispensable” to Kissinger. “He provided order, discipline, predictability. . . . Pure military decisions bored Kissinger. Haig handled them for him.”

The book also documents Haig’s chameleon-like character: “When he was around Kissinger, Haig took great care not to flaunt his relationship with Nixon. . . . To Kissinger and his aides, Haig sometimes referred to the President as an inherently weak man who lacked guts. He joked that Nixon and Bebe Rebozo had a homosexual relationship, imitating what he called the President’s limp-wrist manner. And around the men [Haig] . . . cultivated in the Pentagon, he complained about Kissinger’s temper tantrums, his dishonesty, his disorganization, his reluctance to offend the weak-livered eggheads he had associated with in academia. These men thought Haig trusted them because he was willing to share such harsh judgments with them.”

In 1973, Haig earned the contempt of traditional U. S.

military circles when, through Kissinger’s intervention, Nixon made him a four-star general over 240 senior generals. Nixon named Haig—a man who had never commanded troops in battle—to Army vice-chief of staff; 25 senior generals were forced into retirement on the same occasion. It was thus that Haig became known variously as the Armchair General and the Paper-Clip by old-line military types.

But Haig’s departure from the White House was temporary. On May 4, 1973 Haig became “interim assistant to the President,” and on Aug. 1 White House chief of staff.

Over the next year, Haig—who had personally been responsible for putting many of the infamous White House wire-taps on Nixon’s opponents—worked closely with Kissinger to exacerbate Nixon’s sense of isolation and paranoia. Former Vice-President Spiro Agnew blames Haig directly for convincing Nixon to oust him. In his memoirs, Agnew charges Haig with employing hints of blackmail and death threats to force him to resign, and notes correctly that the forces behind Haig and Kissinger wanted to replace Agnew with a vice-president more acceptable to them before going in for the kill on Nixon.

In exchange for Haig’s expert assistance in destroying the Nixon presidency, Kissinger persuaded his latest acquisition, President Gerald Ford, to deploy Haig to head up NATO.

From this new power base, Haig proceeded to launch his own public political career. Positioning himself as an opponent of the Carter administration’s military and foreign policies, Haig had made it an open secret by 1978 that he intended to run for the Republican presidential nomination.

Among the first newspapers to publicize Haig’s alleged qualifications to lead the United States were the *London Times* and the *London Daily Telegraph*. In the United States, Nelson Rockefeller, Pittsburgh’s Heinz family (linked directly to the Trilateral Commission and the Anglo-Dutch Bilderberg Society), Boston Brahmin banking circles, the oil majors and trade-union operative Jay Lovestone were instrumental in pushing Haig to the forefront, as was the Federal Union, an organization founded by Rhodes Scholar Clarence Streit to build for a one-worldist “federation of the democracies.”

According to W. Scott Thompson, a defense analyst at Tufts who belongs to the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies, the Haig for President gambit was predicated on a “massive military crisis that would so panic the American population that they would beg for a strongman to lead them. Haig would appear as the man on a white horse who could get the United States back on track.” The failure of such a crisis to materialize deep-sixed Haig’s presidential ambitions—at least for the time being.