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GOP cheaper by the dozen?

Haig added to list of contenders

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Retired Gen. Alexander Haig, the man who led the White House staff through the last stormy days of the Watergate scandal, has brought the number of potential Republican presidential candidates to an even dozen.

A national committee was formed Monday to draft Haig for the GOP nomination. He joins seven announced candidates, two unannounced, one other draft possibility and one — Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., who announced and dropped out.

The "Draft Haig Committee" was filed formally with the Federal Election Commission, and organizers said, "We have every reason to believe that he will seek the Republican nomination for president once the depth of his support is seen."

While there has been considerable talk of Haig's entry into politics since he retired as NATO commander in Europe early this year, he has been a reluctant candidate.

"There's a very crowded field on the Republican side and as of now I have no wish whatsoever to enter that race," Haig said last month.

The Draft Haig Committee is headed by Charles A. McManus Jr., former head of the conservative Americans for Constitutional Action and once an official at the Republican National Committee.

McManus, a political consultant, said he decided to organize the Haig effort because of recent interest in the general that he has found among business political action committees he has been involved with.

"With (Ronald) Reagan and (John) Connally at loggerheads and some of the others faltering, it might be time to test the waters," McManus said.

There were reports Haig, now doing foreign policy research for the University of Pennsylvania, would run for the Senate from his home state of Pennsylvania.

But one source said Haig is reconsidering the presidency and has discussed a race with one-time top

Nixon aides Harry Dent and William Timmons, and with Stuart Spencer, one of Gerald Ford's 1976 campaign managers.

A West Point graduate and one-time aide to Gen. Douglas MacAr-

thur, Haig took over direction of the White House staff in the darkest days of the Nixon administration after the Watergate scandal forced the resignation of H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman.

Couple's home lost to \$3.05 in taxes

United Press International
QUINCY, Fla. — A legal services attorney says he is going to court to try to regain the modest home an elderly black couple lost for failure to pay \$3.05 in taxes, but he doesn't have much hope.

"I'm going to bring some kind of court action, but it will be difficult because a tax deed is almost inviolate," Milton Wright of the North Florida Legal Services office in Quincy said Monday.

About the only reason to invalidate a tax deed is if the taxes were not owed in the first place, he said. But he said he is considering a challenge based on the ground that Fedo Kenon, who owned the property, was mentally incompetent.

Hattie Mae Kenon, 63, who toiled in the tobacco fields to help acquire the home outside Quincy where the couple raised seven children, only recently found out real estate broker John G. Barrow had bought the tax certificate.

Barrow said he will evict the Kenons, who live on \$478 a month in Social Security, unless they buy

their land back from him for \$10,000. Barrow bought the tax certificate by paying the \$3.05 in taxes a month after the April 1976 tax deadline passed. He waited three years, more than the minimum two years prescribed by law, and in July 1977 bought a tax deed making him the legal owner. It cost him a total of \$107, representing back taxes plus county expenses.

"I cried some, and I guess the onliest place we have and it hurt to know we were going to lose everything we had."

Her husband, she said, has been committed twice to mental hospitals, once for two and a half years, since his release has been treated at Tallahassee mental health clinic.

Mrs. Kenon said she does not know why her husband did not pay the taxes.

She said "His mind is mixed about the land," and at times, she thinks his brother, now dead, owned the property.

"If I had known it, I sure would have paid that money," she said.

Forecasting method may prevent flu deaths

United Press International
ATLANTA — Federal health officials say they have found a system of forecasting flu epidemics that could allow active medical intervention before an outbreak strikes.

The National Center for Disease Control reported Monday the system may forecast flu epidemics two or more weeks before they occur, with the aim of blunting such outbreaks and possibly saving lives.

The system, described in detail to a group of flu experts at the CDC, is based on statistical analysis of pneumonia-influenza during the past 17 years. The CDC said the system was tested alongside the old system during this winter's flu season and officials think it may replace the one that has been in use for the past 20 years.

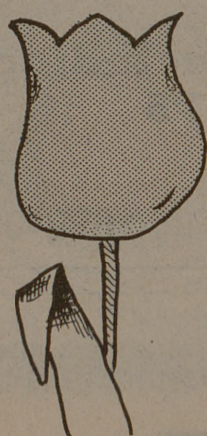
Dr. Keewhan Choi of the CDC's bureau of epidemiology said the system "would be able to detect outbreaks two weeks before pneumonia and influenza deaths reach the

epidemic level." He said he hoped future statistical reports would improve on the two-week warning period.

Dr. Filip Brachman, director of the epidemiology bureau, said the weeks advance warning of an impending influenza outbreak would allow time for medical intervention to save lives through anti-viral drugs.

With immediate intervention, a flu vaccine, which takes a person two weeks to build up a personal immunity, also possibly could be used in high-risk areas. The present system of reporting influenza activity is based on pneumonia-influenza mortality statistics, but indicate epidemic levels of influenza two weeks before the event.

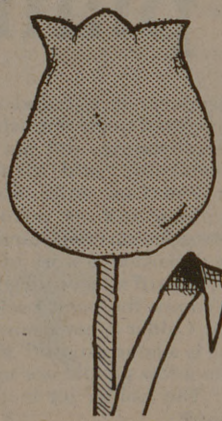
Choi said, under his system, influenza epidemics would be detected if the number of flu deaths across the nation in any given week was greater than 620. He said that deaths in a week would mean a major epidemic was on the way.



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.51	Round	AAA	1071
.55	Round	AAA	1155
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.69	Oval	A+	750
.70	MQ	AA	1900
.75	Pear	AA	1450
.76	Oval	AAA	1850
.75	E.C.	AAAA	1900
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