

Nixon's Reorganization: Questions Remain.

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

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President Nixon's latest reorganization of his Administration completes the demolition of the so-called "Berlin wall" that surrounded him during his first term. And, at least in theory, it reverses the trend toward concentration of power in the hands of a favored few within the White House that has distinguished Mr. Nixon's Presidency.

News
Analysis

The architects of the "wall," which so outraged Republican politicians, members of Congress and even Cabinet officers, were H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman. They are gone, victims of the Watergate scandal.

At least three of the Haldeman and Ehrlichman protégés sent out into the bureaucracy to act as White House agents have also been forced out of Federal service by the scandal — Egil Krogh Jr., Jeb Stuart Magruder and Gordon Strachan.

Now the super-Cabinet jobs, another creation of Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman, which also served to weaken the departments and strengthen the White House, have been discarded. The Cabinet members have been assured by the President that they will be listened to in the future and that they will even get to talk to Mr. Nixon.

But there is still no real as-

urance that President Nixon will be any more accessible in the remaining 44 months of his term than he has been these last 52.

Partly for physical reasons (he lacks stamina) and partly for psychological reasons (he detests arguments and is loath to deliver criticism personally), Richard Nixon has a life-long habit of isolation. Unlike his five immediate predecessors, he is a loner, a man who draws no sustenance from contact with a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

After more than a quarter-century of public life, his ability or desire to change his style of life is questionable.

A salient example is Mr. Nixon's choice of men to plug the holes left in his staff and Cabinet by the Watergate case. Another man might have concluded that the old system had failed him and that new sorts of aides were needed; another man might have concluded that the introduction of outsiders into the inner circle of the Administration would provide a useful symbol of reassurance to the public that things were changing.

Musical Chairs

But not Mr. Nixon, who is pictured by those who know him best as extremely nervous about "untested" advisers.

If he has sought new blood, he has not been able to find it. Instead, he has played a high-level game of musical chairs, shifting men from one job to

another as vacancies developed through resignations.

Thus, Elliot L. Richardson—who had served as Under Secretary of State, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Secretary of Defense—becomes Attorney General-designate. James R. Schlesinger—who had served in the Budget Bureau, as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and as Director of Central Intelligence—becomes Secretary of Defense-designate.

Rogers May Move

Other gaps are filled by Leonard Garment, J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., William C. Colby, John B. Connally and Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr.—Administration loyalists to the last man.

There are even reports that Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, will be named Secretary of State, and that the President's old confidant, Secretary of State William P. Rogers, will join the White House staff.

No one in Washington, or at least very few people, question the integrity and competence of such men as Mr. Richardson and General Haig. But many doubt that Mr. Nixon has really cleaned house, and the city is full of jokes about "the movable Brahmin" (Mr. Richardson).

In a number of instances, moreover, there are nagging questions that still face the President, such as:

On Mr. Richardson: Can the special prosecutor Mr. Richard-

son is to appoint be truly independent if Mr. Richardson makes the ultimate decisions on such matters as immunity?

On General Haig: Is it appropriate for the President to move a general on active duty into the White House to perform many of Mr. Hadleman's duties?

On Mr. Connally: Can the former Treasury Secretary, who will continue to retain his long list of wealthy clients, including several in the oil industry, give the President impartial counsel on domestic and foreign policy matters that may affect them?

Congressmen Rebuffed

On Mr. Buzhardt: Can a man heavily involved in the Pentagon papers case as general counsel to the Department of the Army make dispassionate determinations in the Watergate case, with which the Pentagon papers case is intertwined?

A large number of Republican Representatives and Senators had hoped that Mr. Nixon would turn to someone not only independent of the Administration but known for political savvy, such as representative John Rhodes of Arizona, chairman of the House Republican Conference. They have been rebuffed.

In sum, many here believe, the President, badly in need of a dramatic stroke to restore the public confidence that the polls show to be ebbing from his Administration, has not found it yet.