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# 'Acting' Boss Kleindienst

FEELING PRESSURE from the White House itself, Attorney General John Mitchell now leans toward a halfway solution to the tricky question of whether his contentious top deputy, Richard Kleindienst, should be nominated to succeed him when Mitchell steps down in January to take over President Nixon's reelection campaign.

The solution: Make Kleindienst "acting" Attorney General, thus avoiding what liberal Republicans are warning the White House would be a protracted, bitter Senate confirmation fight.

The halfway solution has ample precedent under Lyndon B. Johnson. Johnson twice employed the device of "acting" Attorney General, first for Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, who served that way for almost six months, and later for Ramsey Clark, who was given a five-month trial run as "acting" chief.

The halfway solution for Kleindienst, a law-and-order hard-liner whose abrasive personality has rubbed some powerful politicians the wrong way, would placate the right wing of the Republican Party without risking an embarrassing confirmation fight.

Actually, some democratic liberals in the Senate doubt that confirming Kleindienst would be all that tough. A final decision won't be made until at least next month.

A footnote: Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans will probably step down with Mitchell in January to take charge of the Nixon money-raising effort.

## Guarding the "Spirit"

FEARING POSSIBLE snafus and misunderstandings over the extraordinary security and logistics demands of the White House for President Nixon's trip to Peking, the advance party under Henry Kissinger was pleasantly astounded by the cooperation it received from the Chinese Communists.

For one thing, Prime Minister Chou En-lai had ordered a special security building erected at a secluded corner of the Peking airfield where President Nixon's plane, The Spirit of '76, will be kept during his stay in Peking. The building has two small wings, one for two U.S. security guards, the other for two Chinese guards, with a common room in between for eating meals and playing Ping-Pong.

What surprised the Kis-

singer party was that these security arrangements were made by the Chinese on their own, despite the fact that Peking's long exclusion from summit meetings with world leaders has given it little hard experience to go on.

More important, nearly 100 per cent of the incredibly long list of logistics requirements for the President's visit — including communications gear far more sophisticated than the Chinese have ever seen — was approved after careful study by Chinese experts during Kissinger's recent visit.

None of this presages diplomatic breakthroughs when Mr. Nixon gets to Peking. What it does do is confirm the President's conviction that the Chinese, under Premier Chou En-lai, would leave no stone unturned to set the summit stage according to Mr. Nixon's wishes.

## Blacks vs. Lindsay

ALTHOUGH Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York is counting on heavy black support in his long-shot bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, there were no kind words and a few angry ones for him last month in Chicago at a national meeting of Negro po-

litical leaders.

The unkind words came from Basil Patterson, Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor of New York in 1970 and perhaps the state's most widely respected black politician. Lindsay, said Patterson, totally ignores local black leaders in New York City. Instead, the mayor just barges into a Negro neighborhood with his own operation.

What makes Patterson's attack significant is that his listeners at Chicago included key black politicians from states where Lindsay will be seeking delegate support. One Negro Democratic leader from an important primary state later said Patterson's appraisal shocked him into taking a new look at Lindsay's prospects.

The only other white politician criticized at the Chicago meeting was another liberal Democrat: the highly regarded Rep. Phillip Burton of California, chairman of the liberal Democratic Study Group in the House. George Wiley, head of the radical National Welfare Rights Organization, charged Burton had sold out to the Nixon administration on welfare reform.