

Klein Predicts Nixon Will Increase Frequency of His Press Conferences

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Herbert G. Klein, the White House director of communications, predicted yesterday President Nixon will hold more press conferences in his second term—provided sensitive negotiations don't interfere.

Klein, at a breakfast meeting with reporters, did not offer any basis for his outlook other than observing "we're past a lot of these negotiations" that in the first Nixon term made press conferences, in the White House's view, too risky.

The communications director, who has said he will leave the White House staff at some indefinite time in the second term, acknowledged he had thought Mr. Nixon would hold more press conferences in his first four years than he did—23.

He cited "a variety of negotiations" in the foreign policy field, notably on Vietnam and the President's trip to China, as the chief impediment. "Each word you say is examined very closely," posing a

potential risk to such negotiations, Klein said.

Klein said he did not expect the President would hold regularly scheduled press sessions in his second term, but that they would "depend on events to a considerable degree."

Concerning his own future in the administration, which published reports have suggested is now, Klein said: "I've not made any plans but I've always said I'm not going to stay over a long period of time. Whatever timetable I work out will be my own."

What will happen in his Office of Communications, he said, is still the subject of discussions he is holding with Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary. Ziegler has denied reports he will take control of Klein's office after Klein leaves.

While these negotiations are going on, Klein said, he did not want to talk about them. But he acknowledged he is helping in a review of the performances of public-information officials throughout the

administration, pointing toward appointments for the second term.

On one matter of sensitivity in the communications field, however, Klein did have something to say—on the proposal by Dr. Clay T. Whitehead, director of the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy, for new television licensing criteria.

Klein said he favored a bill outlined by Whitehead that would extend federal license terms from three to five years, requiring greater responsibility by local stations for what network news and analysis they use.

While he believes there is an "imbalance" in TV news commentary, Klein said, Whitehead in his speech on the subject last month had used "a number of phrases I don't want to associate myself with" Klein did not specify which ones, but among other things, Whitehead said local stations should weed out "ideological plugola" and "correct" those who "dispense elitist gossip in the guise of news analysis."