

White House Denies Nixon Is Planning a Counterattack

5/22/73
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Amid rumors that the President was planning a counteroffensive against his critics, Mr. Nixon worked alone or with staff aides yesterday without any known contacts with government or congressional leaders.

No scheduled appointments have been announced for today despite recent pledges by administration spokesmen that the President had adopted a more open policy toward the Cabinet, Congress and the press.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren denied that the President is planning a major change of policy, speech or press conference.

"There are meetings going on in the White House quite often to talk about continuing White House business," Warren said. "I know of no meetings for a counteroffensive."

Often in the past a period of presidential seclusion has been followed by an important statement or new course of action.

There were some indications that the President, in addition to concentration on the Watergate disclosures and the changes in the White House staff, has worked on domestic economic issues.

Former Treasury Secretary John Connally, who met with the President once last week for an hour and a half, has not been in the White House since but is expected back in town today, officials said. They threw no light on the work he may be doing for the President.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, who has taken over some of the duties of former staff chief H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, has spent many hours with the President in recent days.

It is known that some White House aides have urged the President to try to divert attention from Watergate by what has been

described as diversionary or cosmetic actions. Some other aides have argued vigorously that any such action would do little or no good and might be counterproductive.

It could not be learned which approach Ziegler might be advocating but it was known that the President has kept him at his side for many hours, just as he did Haldeman, as an aide, sounding-board and companion.

Herbert G. Klein, director of communications, who had planned to resign a month ago, has been asked by the President to remain in the administration for the time being to advise on public relations and other matters.

Ziegler did not hold his daily briefing for reporters yesterday but turned the

task over to his deputy, Warren.

The latter denied reports that national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger had offered to resign. "As far as we know," Warren said, Kissinger has not resigned and has no intention of resigning.

Asked why he could not say that for a certainty instead of "as far as we know," Warren noted that Kissinger is in Paris and held his fourth day of meetings yesterday with North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho. Warren said he did not know how long the meetings would last.

Meanwhile, Vice President Agnew praised the President's record and called on Republicans not to be "stampeded" by the Watergate disclosures.

Acknowledging that "this is not the easiest time to be a high-profile Republican in Washington," the Vice President told the Bull Elephants

Club here that it is time "we went back to work."

The Nixon administration offers solutions "to the real, as opposed to the manufactured, problems of our times," he said, declaring that the Nixon accomplishments and initiatives have been "formidable" and "unprecedented."

"I am as proud of my Republican identification today as I was last year, or four years ago, or 20 years ago," Agnew told the club, made up of Republican staff workers.

At the White House, Warren said that a statement promised last week on the President's real estate holdings in California and Florida would be made public Friday.

The report was promised after the Santa Ana (Calif.) Register reported that Senate investigators were looking into the possibility that campaign funds were used to buy the Nixon home in San Clemente.