

Insight and Outlook By Joseph Kraft

Going Stale

Part 2/9/66

AN AIR OF FATIGUE suffuses Washington these days, and not only because a second-hand war, and second-hand arguments about it, go on and on and on without end. The atmosphere is sterile, in large part because of a want of new men and new energies.



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At the Cabinet level, the only fresh spirit in town belongs to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, John W. Gardner. To be sure, two other new boys are on the job. But Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor has not succeeded in building, as he had hoped, a Department of the Economy. The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Adm. William Raborn, has inspired mainly his critics. As to the rest of the President's top appointments, there has been, as perhaps never before, movement without novelty—a pouring of old wine into old bottles.

Arthur Goldberg has gone from the Supreme Court to the United Nations. Henry Fowler from Under Secretary of Treasury and a brief

rest in private law practice, to Secretary of the Treasury; Nicholas Katzenbach from Deputy Attorney General to Attorney General; Charles Schulze from Assistant Director of the Budget, after a few months in the academia, to Director of the Budget; Lawrence O'Brien from the White House to the job of Postmaster General.

Even for the new job of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the President, after going over 300 other names, settled for the former head of the new Department's chief constituent agency — Robert Weaver of the Housing and Home Finance Administration. And for the absolutely vital job of Ambassador in Saigon, the President picked Henry Cabot Lodge—a retread formerly at odds with both the American and Vietnamese military.

THE SAME pattern repeats itself at the next lowest level all around the Government. The No. 2 men at Agriculture, Defense, Justice, Commerce, and Health, Education and Welfare are all officials long in Washington who have been moved up a peg.

A particularly striking ex-

ample of musical chairs has developed around the post of Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America. The Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, Thomas Mann, is the former Assistant Secretary for Latin America. His successor, Jack Vaughn, has become Director of the Peace Corps. And his place was taken—not by someone from the outside—but by a man who has been for the past five years Ambassador in Brazil, Lincoln Gordon.

A less important but worse example of the same trouble concerns the chief training agency for American representatives abroad, the Foreign Service Institutes. Instead of going to someone familiar with new training techniques, the job of director is due to be filled by George V. Allen, a retired Foreign Service officer of the old school who recently has been active as a tobacco lobbyist.

The need for new men from the outside world is further underlined by the big jobs that are going begging. McGeorge Bundy has made known his forthcoming resignation as the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs. But there is no replacement yet in sight; and expectations are that Bundy will probably linger past his appointed deadline of March 1.

Bill Moyers has been—quite rightly—looking for a way to disentangle himself from the dull routine of spelling out names and reading aloud schedules that makes up a large part of the press secretary's job. So far he has failed, because of inability to find a substitute.

THE FAILURE to find new men from the outside world is not, as some seem to believe, merely a matter of personalities. The central fact seems to be that the Johnson Administration did not come in, as is usually the case, after most people had been fed up with a previous administration. There

has not been, accordingly, the urge to serve—the elan born of furious disappointment with what went before.

Whatever the cause, the effect is clear. At point after point—in Vietnam, in Latin America, in civil rights, in transportation, in balance of payments policies, in foreign aid—the Administration has been slow to react to changing situations.

Some of its highest officials (Under Secretary of State George Ball and AID Administrator David Bell, for instance) have been thinking about getting out. More and more, in other words, the Administration is manned by tired and dispirited men. It is going stale.

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