

# Insight and Outlook <sup>Printed 9/12/68</sup> By Joseph Kraft

## The Goldman Resignation

PROFESSOR Eric Goldman played so small a role in White House operations that his resignation will not directly affect the Government in any substantial way. But indirectly, his leaving is of real importance.



Kraft

It is connected with the widening circle of incompetence now spreading through the Government as an ink spot through porous cloth. For it was prompted by the growing disjunction between the Johnson Administration and the chief reservoir of outside talent for Government—the knowledge community.

The knowledge community is not easy to define. But in general it is concentrated regionally around the great cities along the shores of the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Great Lakes. Functionally, though including men in law and business, it centers around the universities and research centers.

Perhaps the distinguishing mark of the knowledge community is expectation and outlook. The members take for granted the post-war world of affluence, rapid communication, and science and technology.

THEIR FORTE is the capacity to analyze large institutions and their problems, to define possible courses of action, and to carry them out. Because they have this capacity, the members of the knowledge community are particularly useful to the Government.

Unfortunately, however, impediments abound to a marriage between Washington and the knowledge community. Posts outside the Government offer greater rewards, freer lives, and, sometimes, more interesting work. Men with wide intellectual horizons are usually not interested, and often an-

other posts. Most important of all, wherever possible, policy was deliberately framed and articulated in a way that would appeal to the most sophisticated thought in the country.

PRESIDENT Johnson has also made an effort. He appointed Professor Goldman, also a well-known scholar, in place of Professor Schlesinger. He has patronized artists, poets and musicians galore.

But he has framed his policies along the old-fashioned political lines of the New Deal and the Fair Deal; and he has expressed them, more and more, in minted clichés that sound as though they were edited by Dean Rusk out of rejections from a Chinese fortune cookie factory.

The result has been a virtual divorce between the Administration and the knowledge community.

And that is what Professor Goldman is trying to announce by his resignation.

Nor is his announcement in the slightest gainsaid by Press Secretary Bill Moyers' laborious demonstration that Professor Goldman

only rarely saw the President. If anything, that line of argument makes the point that the administration uses prominent academics merely for cosmetic purposes.

AND THAT point is further reinforced by the news that Professor John P. Roche of Brandeis will now be joining the White House staff. For Professor Roche goes to the White House without any regular assignment, and he is known chiefly as an Irishman who teaches at a Jewish university and a liberal who supports the President on Vietnam.

To me, accordingly, his appointment presents the case of a calculated political maneuver, conceived in the outworn spirit of the balanced ticket, and dedicated to the shabby purpose of confusing issues and dividing opposition.

noyed, by the higgling and haggling over small points of invidious personal advantage that make up the steady daily diet of political life. Thus a special effort is necessary to establish good working relations between Government and the knowledge community.

Under President Kennedy, the effort, though not always successful, was made in many ways. There was the appointment of a truly well known scholar, Arthur Schlesinger, to the White House staff. Highly respected, if less publicized, figures from the knowledge community filled dozens of