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# Inside Report . . . By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

## Goldman's Stumbling Exit

NO SINGLE event in his Administration has cast so revealing a spotlight on President Johnson's problems with the men who work for him as the farcical departure of resident White House intellectual Eric Goldman.

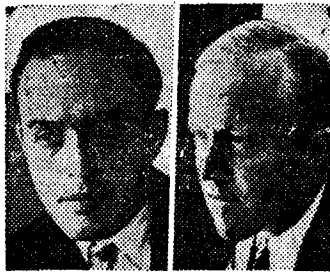
Goldman, a shadowy figure in the Johnson White House since the early spring of 1964, gave a hand-written note to one of the President's personal secretaries on Aug. 23, informing Mr. Johnson that he must return to Princeton University by Sept. 15 at the latest.

So strained had relations become between Goldman's office in the White House west wing and the oval office of the President that Dr. Goldman had to seek advice from Robert Kintner, a top-level presidential assistant, as to how to make known to the President the fact that he was leaving.

KINTNER, who sees the President all the time, instructed Goldman exactly how to proceed, even down to the fine point as to which presidential secretary should get the letter to give to the President.

When, a few days later, Goldman received a warm and friendly note from Mrs. Johnson telling him how sorry she was that he was returning to Princeton, he concluded the President himself was not going to announce his resignation. He concluded, in short, that the President was going to let him leave town without any announcement.

And so, without revealing his intention to anyone in the White House and without giving Mr. Johnson a decent interval to make his own announcement, Goldman arranged an interview, over dinner, with several top Washington correspondents. Besides revealing his departure, Goldman talked about the inside account he plans to write of the Johnson administration. Throughout the not-for-quotations interview, Goldman was highly critical of the President's failure to work hard enough for rap-



Novak

Evans

port with the intellectuals. one of the persistent facts of the Johnson administration: the instability of relationships between the President himself and his subordinates.

What really triggered Goldman's rush to the press was suspicion that the President was prepared to let him leave Washington without praise or acknowledgement. What triggered the White House response was suspicion that in his forthcoming book, Goldman might use unflattering colors to paint the President.

This lack of rapport with presidential appointees has cropped up time and again. Mr. Johnson has kept employees who wanted to quit the Administration, waiting for months on end. He has canceled prospective appointments because of premature publicity. He has taken the hide off faithful

servants for real or fancied wrongs, often behind their backs.

All this has created a feeling of deep unease between some of those who work for the President and the President himself. Typically, the beginnings of Mr. Johnson's problems with Goldman can be traced to poet Robert Lowell's refusal to attend the White House festival of the arts in protest to Vietnam. Ever since, Goldman had been in a state of limbo. The President blamed Goldman, his agent with the intellectuals, for not having anticipated Lowell's reaction.

PROFESSOR GOLDMAN won't be missed in the White House, and the event will be quickly forgotten. Moreover, the President has good reason to feel agrieved in this case. But it points up a troublesome fact about Lyndon Johnson's Washington that has hurt him before and will hurt him again. The lack of genuine understanding with some of his employes is an Achilles heel for Mr. Johnson.

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port with the intellectuals.

Published news of this background interview—which actually underplayed the intensity of Goldman's criticism—hit the White House like a bombshell, and its sour notes were quickly echoed. White House Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers said publicly that Goldman had spent most of his White House tenure working with Mrs. Johnson.

BEHIND THIS public washing of dirty laundry lies