

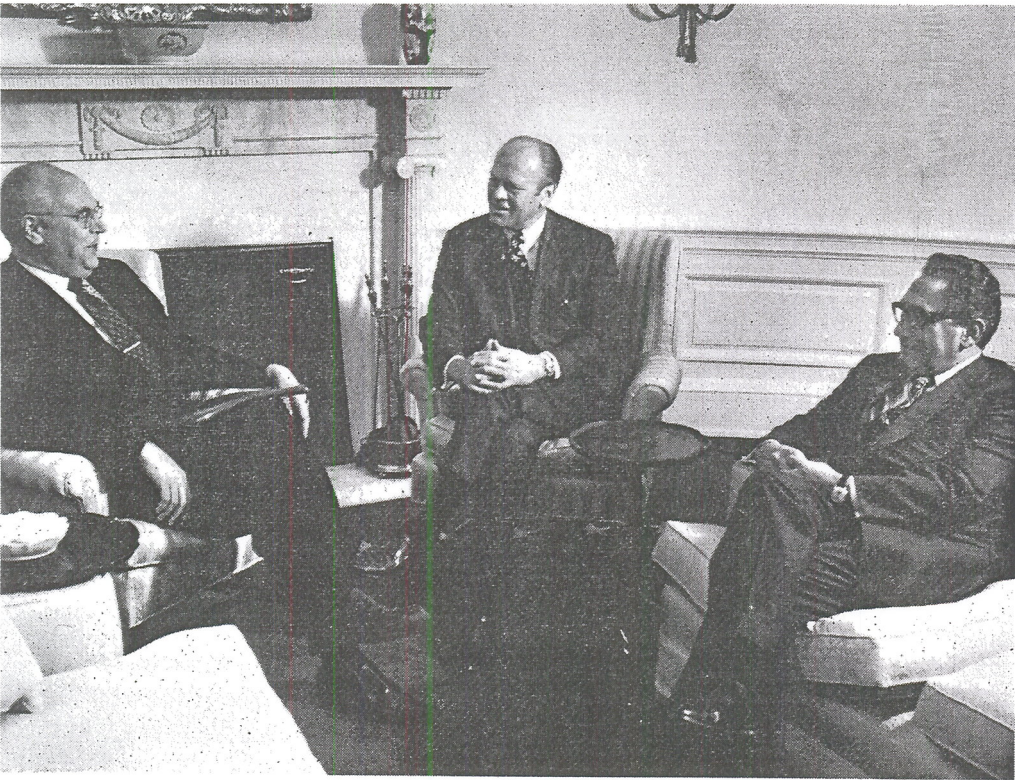
DIRCK HALSTEAD

by Nixon's former council, Biemiller said, but it would go along with the new proposal because "today we have a new President. We have confidence in the integrity of this President." Before the day was out, Senators were speculating that Ford would get his council.

On Wednesday, Ford invited powerful Democratic Senator Russell Long of Louisiana over to the White House to talk. Long's support would be helpful to the President in achieving the compromise health-care program that Ford so firmly wants to get through Congress this year. In this area, as in his successful wooing of Senators Jackson, Javits and Ribicoff on the trade reform bill compromise, Ford seemed to be working at full speed to make the most of the honeymoon while it lasts.

"Start with Me." One day last week the mayors of 16 U.S. cities asked which White House aide they should deal with in the new Administration. Replied the President: "Start with me." To the 16 mayors, as well as to the 14 Governors he saw last week, he emphasized his commitment to carry on Nixon's revenue-sharing program, but he told the mayors that he would veto the \$20 billion mass-transit bill as too costly.

When some Governors and county executives complained that they had had difficulty gaining access to the White House in the past, Ford urged them to take their problems to Domestic Assistant Kenneth Cole and promised that Cole would forward the matters to the President within two days or less. "And if Ken Cole is not responsive," added Ford, "then you can see me." The out-of-towners, who remembered that Richard Nixon's technique had been to deliver a well-framed monologue and then turn the meeting over to an assistant when the discussion began, pronounced themselves impressed. "The style of President Ford," said Washing-



FORD & KISSINGER MEETING AT WHITE HOUSE WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN (LEFT) Afterward, a remarkable compromise through face-to-face contact.

the loudest ovation of the session. He appealed to a constituency that included "women's liberationists and male chauvinists, and all the rest of us somewhere in between," and the members of Congress laughed and cheered. After the troubles of the recent past, they welcomed the President's efforts to heal the nation's wounds.

All week long the President summoned both old friends and old foes to the White House. On Monday morning, Congressman Charles Rangel, the New York Democrat who is chairman of the Black Caucus in the House of Representatives, received a phone call that his secretary suspected was a put-on. "There's a call from somebody saying he's the President," she said. Then a fa-

miliar voice came over Rangel's line, "Hi, Charlie." It was Ford, responding to a request from the Black Caucus and suggesting that they confer with him "to work out problems of mutual interest."

Then the President reached out to his adversary, organized labor. He invited AFL-CIO President George Meany over to the Oval Office for a chat, and the crusty old Meany, who in the end had thrown the resources of his office into the effort to impeach Nixon, came away impressed. Two days later, the AFL-CIO's chief lobbyist, Andrew J. Biemiller, announced that labor was prepared to support Ford's proposal for a new Cost of Living Council with jawboning rather than regulatory authority. It was true that organized labor had felt "zapped"

erably reassured about the depth of the new Administration's commitment to promises made earlier by Richard Nixon.

Ford also talked Middle East politics with visiting King Hussein of Jordan. The President scored heavily with the Japanese by swiftly picking up an original invitation to Nixon to visit Tokyo some time after the November elections—the first visit there by a U.S. President. Ford also pocketed a diplomatic IOU by agreeing to hold talks late next month with Japan's politically embattled Premier Kakuei Tanaka, who feels he can score points at home by negotiating with the new President. Ford extended a similar invitation to West Germany's new Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, who plans to come to Washington when the United Nations General Assembly opens next month. The Chief Executive invited Greece's new civilian Premier, Constantine Caramanlis, to visit Washington to discuss the Cyprus crisis, but the Premier decided it would be unwise to leave Athens "at this time."

What impressed foreign leaders most of all was Ford's diplomacy on Capitol Hill in the matters of the trade bill. The President agreed to initiate an exchange of letters from Moscow in which the Soviets would consent to end harassment of Jews and to allow all Jews to leave who seek emigration ap-

On the Overseas Line

During one of several calls to London last week about the Cyprus crisis, Henry Kissinger reached British Foreign Secretary James Callaghan in Prime Minister Harold Wilson's office at No. 10 Downing Street. After a few moments of conversation, Kissinger told Callaghan that "I am here in the Oval Office with the President and he would like a few words with you, Jim, and the Prime Minister." Gerald Ford then spent ten minutes complimenting Britain's efforts to contain the Cyprus situation and emphasizing his commitment to continuity in U.S. foreign policy. Whitehall officials later happily declared Anglo-American relations to be the warmest since the early 1960s, when Harold Macmillan's and John Kennedy's rambling phone conversations added "Jack-Mac" talks to the vocabulary of transatlantic diplomacy.

Throughout his first week in the Oval Office, Ford handled U.S. foreign relations with more assurance and subtlety than many observers at home and abroad had expected. He held White House talks with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, Egypt's Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy and South Viet Nam's Ambassador Tran Kim Phuong; all left consid-

ton Governor Daniel Evans, "is to be casual, informal, candid." Said San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto: "This was a great thing. It had been a long, long time since we had been in the White House"—almost four years, in fact.

Originally, Ford had hoped to announce his choice for Vice President by the end of his first week in office, but he failed to make it. Amid endless speculation, almost everyone agreed that the leading contenders were former New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Republican National Chairman Bush. Others believed to be on Ford's list included former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee, Governor Evans and former



WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL PHILIP W. BUCHEN

Attorney General Elliot Richardson. Former Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton, who was helping Ford with takeover problems, was also said to be a candidate, but Scranton described himself as "Mr. Temporary" and claimed that he would not accept the job unless "the nation was at war or something."

Rockefeller's prospects were buffeted briefly by a bizarre report, mentioned by Columnist Jack Anderson last week, alleging that Rockefeller money had been used to finance a "stand-by" group of "toughs" to disrupt the 1972 Democratic National Convention. The shenanigans were supposedly described in papers contained within seven myste-



REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM M. LUKASH

rious boxes of Watergate "documents." This material, once supposedly held by Watergate Conspirator E. Howard Hunt, was said to have been spirited away by a Nixon loyalist named Roy Sheppard following the Watergate break-in of June 1972. Sheppard later said that he burned the papers, but recently there have been rumors that either the originals or copies of the originals had not been destroyed.

Whether the so-called Sheppard papers ever existed is dubious. Rockefeller branded the allegations as "absolutely untrue" and signified his willingness to open campaign finance records to refute the charge. Rockefeller contributed \$250,000 to the Nixon campaign that



COUNSELLOR JOHN O. MARSH

year with the stipulation, he said, that the money be spent only in New York state campaigns and only under supervision of Rockefeller associates. A telephoned tip to the White House, giving the location of a safe-deposit box supposedly containing copies of the documents, sent the Watergate Special Prosecutor's investigators scurrying, but the vault they were directed to proved to be empty. With that, the White House described the charges against Rockefeller as being "without foundation" and reiterated that Rocky was still very much "under consideration" for the No. 2 job in the nation.

At odd moments throughout the week, Ford retired to the small working office beside the Oval Office, took off his jacket, and shuffled through his notes on the vice-presidential appointment. When asked for the names of people whom the President was consulting, Press Secretary Jerry terHorst replied, "He's consulting himself." At week's end Ford was said to be still genuinely undecided. When informed by terHorst that some newspapers were saying that the President had narrowed the field

plications (35,000 last year). Assuming the Soviets go along, the Ford compromise clears the way for passage of the bill.

Across the world, the public is still struggling to get a handle on the new U.S. leader. European commentators have generally tried to find Ford parallels in Harry Truman. Ettore Della Giovanna, 61, Italian television's version of Eric Sevareid, has been presenting the President as "a noble expression of the average American—that average American which has made America great and powerful." Like many U.S. newsmen, European editors have dwelt more or less heavily on Ford's supposed lack of intellectual heft.

Despite such occasional reservations, observers are beginning to recognize advantages in the fact that Ford's strong suit is domestic politics. Nixon in his last months seemed to many diplomats to be using foreign policy as a way of dealing with his domestic problems; doubts rose as to whether he had the political wherewithal at home to make good on the agreements he was signing on his trips abroad. For that reason foreign leaders who tuned into Ford's speech to Congress were encouraged by the President's warmly received promise to cultivate Capitol Hill, as well as his emphasis on inflation and other domestic issues. Says Ian Smart, deputy director of Britain's prestigious Royal Institute of International Affairs:

"The U.S. as the center of influence, the way in which its economy is run, the way in which it will conduct itself as a buyer and seller of resources, are of far more importance than the panoply of international negotiations and international relationships. [Ford's] best contribution abroad will be to establish that he has his domestic situation under control." That will be truest in Western Europe.

TIME's Chief European Correspondent William Rade-makers observes: "The new leaders in Europe want more joint cooperation and less public clashing over cosmic proposals such as Kissinger's Atlantic Charter speech of 1973. To them this means more consultation on a range of problems from inflation to the environment. It does not necessarily mean summitry or an American President living out of a suitcase. It does mean hard talking at the Cabinet level, and a President who can deliver on his promises—get bills through Congress and lobby with the American people for what he believes. Europeans joke about our Presidents—Johnson the Texas sheriff, Kennedy of Camelot, Nixon the crisis manager. Now they feel they have an all-American boy. They do not know exactly what that means; but they seem eager and willing for a fresh start."