

Ford Resists Pressure to Remove Nixon Staff Holdovers

By Jules Witcover

Washington Post Staff Writer

Ten weeks after President Ford took office, many familiar names from the Nixon years continue to appear on the White House payroll:

Leonard Garment, Ray Price, Patrick Buchanan, Ken Clawson, William Timmons, Gerald Warren, Anne Armstrong, Dean Burch, Roy Ash, Max Friedersdorf, Tom Korologos, William Baroody Jr., Jerry Jones, Kenneth Cole, and others.

Many old Nixon hands have left, but many remain, not only on the White House staff but throughout the executive branch and particularly in the Cabinet, which remains intact. A chorus of advice has gone up from friends and foes of the new President to clean out the Nixon-identifiable aides, but his own mark on his administration and quiet suggestions that he is not yet "his own man."

In the face of this pressure — some of it reportedly from Ford intimates who blame his decision to pardon former President Nixon in part on his failure to clean out the Nixonites at once — Mr. Ford has shown no inclination to railroad anybody.

"There have been no deadlines set," White House press secretary Ron Nessen said more than two weeks ago when asked about the Nixon holdovers. He said Mr. Ford "has said that it is not in his nature to toss people out on the street . . . that he does not want anybody shoved out of this building until they have had an adequate opportunity to find a career for themselves."

Also, Nessen said then, some Old Nixon hands were being kept on the payroll and detailed to help the former President on transition matters at San Clemente, pending Congress' appropriation of transition money for him. The Ford

administration, in consultation with San Clemente, requested \$850,000 this year for Mr. Nixon, but Congress has pared the figure to \$200,000.

"It's not our (the staff's) responsibility to decide who, he wants to keep on his staff and who he does not want to keep on his staff," Nessen said. "He will decide who he wants to keep on his staff, and then once that is arranged and once

he has a transition budget to pay them, they will be paid for and will be chosen by him."

Under the law providing for former Presidents, Mr. Nixon will have up to \$96,000 a year to pay salaries — hardly enough to keep three of his former aides in the style to which they became accustomed during the Nixon tenure in the White House. Accordingly, most of the holdovers still drawing federal salaries are expected to find employment elsewhere.

Several of those still on the payroll have been asked specifically to stay aboard — beyond Mr. Ford's blanket request at the start of his tenure — and apparently will do so.

These include the two White House political advisers, Anne Armstrong and Dean Burch, legislative liaison chief Timmons and his two chief deputies, Friedersdorf and Korologos, and Baroody, a special assistant to the President in charge of liaison with labor and other outside organizations.

None of these, notably, are bureaucrats who owe their present station to any long-time association with Richard Nixon. Anne Armstrong was a national committeewoman from Texas and co-chairman of the Republican National Committee before joining the staff. Burch was Sen. Barry Goldwater's choice for Republican national chairman in

1964 and later chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Timmons was administrative assistant to then Rep. Bill Brock (R-Tenn.) in the 1960s, and Friedersdorf held the same post under then Rep. Richard Roudebush of Indiana and was director of congressional relations for the office of Economic Opportunity. Korologos was a reporter and later press and administrative assistant to Sen. Wallace Bennett (R-Utah). Baroody is a longtime aide to former Secretary of Defense and White House adviser Melvin R. Laird, one of Mr. Ford's most trusted old House colleagues.

Of the holdovers clearly identifiable as Nixon men,

most are either detailed to work directly for the former President or are about to leave.

Clawson, a former Washington Post reporter who became assistant director and eventually director of communications for the White House, is in San Clemente handling "administrative matters including thousands of letters that have come in, and also overseeing the phasing out of General Services Administration activities," according to the White House.

Under federal law, White House employees can be detailed to other responsibilities for up to six months. When Congress appropriates the Nixon transition money, the matter of detailing Clawson and others will be reviewed, the White House says.

Garment, who was a counsel to Mr. Nixon and a former law partner, is continuing to work on matters in which he was involved then. These include providing White House liaison for the American Bicentennial Commission and assisting in staff work on establishing the Legal Services Corporation, for which he was a prime mover in the last days of the Nixon administration.

Buchanan, who has announced he will leave the staff as of Nov. 15, has been working with a new staff to produce the daily news summary

for the President, which he created and later oversaw for Mr. Nixon. Also, according to the White House, he has participated in briefings for Mr. Ford preparatory to press conferences, has written some speeches for cabinet members, and has made one trip to San

Clemente on transition matters.

Buchanan, a former newspaper editorial writer who emerged as the Nixon White House's chief media expert and critic, has been considering some offers in journalism.

Price, once Mr. Nixon's chief speechwriter and head of his speechwriting corps, has been detailed to San Clemente to work on transition matters.

The former President's maid and butler at the White House, Manolo and Fina Sanchez, who were the Nixons' privately employed servants before he became President, also were detailed to San Clemente at government expense, at Mr. Nixon's request, until Oct. 5. They are officially on the payroll of the National Park Service, which is responsible for the staff of the official presidential residence, but Nessen reported Friday they are now on leave without pay from the government.

Warren, who was deputy press secretary to Mr. Nixon and his official spokesman in the latter months of his administration, has been staying on to assist Nessen in the White House press office. Warren says he won't be around "too long" but has not decided what he will do.

David Gergen, who succeeded Price as head of the Nixon speechwriters, remains as a special assistant to the President on loan to Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon, with speechwriting responsibilities, according to the White House.

Roy Ash continues as director of the Office of Manage-

ment and Budget and as an assistant to the President, but rumors are frequent that he will move on after preparation of the first Ford budget at year's end.

Kenneth Cole, executive director of the Domestic Council, which oversees domestic policy, and an original member of the 1968 Nixon campaign team, has indicated he wants to leave but has been asked to stay on to the end of the year or after the 1975 legislative program goes to Congress.

Other prominent holdovers and their duties include Jerry Jones, special assistant to President Nixon for personnel, who has been made White House staff secretary for Mr. Ford; John Nidecker, a special assistant to Mr. Nixon for liaison with outside organizations, who is holding the same job for Mr. Ford; Daniel Kingsley, a special assistant to Mr. Nixon, who has been nominated to be a member of the Federal Power Commission.

Below this first stratum—which is listed in the Congressional Directory as the top of the White House staff—are hundreds of lesser-known, lesser-ranking Nixon holdovers. Many of them are not Nixon appointees or even Republican appointees, but are part of the bureaucracy that extends back to Democratic administrations.

Nessen said two weeks ago that "senior members of the White House staff are now in the process and have the responsibility for organizing their own staffs and having the people on their staffs whom they want and in the jobs they want them in."

But as long as any familiar names from the Nixon years continue to crop up in the news, there doubtless will continue to be calls on Mr. Ford to clean them out.

Some old Ford associates are suggesting that the new President, expecting a GOP debacle in the approaching congressional elections, is waiting on staff changes to see which of his old Capitol Hill buddies are defeated and, in need of, or available for, administration jobs.

An influx of Hill Republicans probably would do more than any other personnel transfusion to put the Ford mark on his own administration, since he has been associated for more than a quarter of a century with the House, and most of his close friends and political counselors are or have been there.

Some Nixon holdovers are, from left, Roy L. Ash, director of management and budget; counsel Leonard Garment; speechwriter Patrick Buchanan; political adviser Dean Burch and press aide Gerald L. Warren. Of these, Burch was the only one to receive a specific invitation—beyond the blanket request—to remain on Mr. Ford's staff.

