

# Chief of Staff in the White House

Harry Robbins Haldeman

By JAMES N. NAUGHTON  
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H. R. Haldeman's red brick house in suburban Kenwood, Md., may be the only place in the United States where dinner guests don't come down with instant indigestion when the host inquires: "Would anybody like to see home movies?" For the movies

have all been filmed in the White House or wherever else Richard M. Nixon, Mr. Haldeman's

boss has lighted during his Presidency. By the end of this month, chances are, at least one more canister containing an insider's view of Mr. Nixon's journey to China will take its place with the others stacked in the closet in Kenwood.

As the chief of staff in the Nixon White House, Harry Robbins (Bob) Haldeman is far more than an amateur chronicler of the Nixon years. In a real sense the 44-year-old native of Los Angeles has helped to shape them.

A mundane title, assistant to the President, scarcely conveys the role Mr. Haldeman plays in shaping the President's daily schedule, public and private. He determines who shall and shall not be admitted to the Oval Office and he organizes the flow of papers that wind up on Mr. Nixon's desk. Not long after Henry A. Kissinger signed on as the President's adviser for national security affairs, Mr. Haldeman made it clear that he too must go through the chief of staff to gain access to the boss.

Furthermore, after a 15-year association, Mr. Haldeman knows how Mr. Nixon thinks and what he wants. They share, among other things a fondness for cottage-cheese-and-pineapple lunches and a tendency to doodle on yellow legal pads. They have both expressed the belief that, as Mr. Haldeman once put it, "Nixon may have a greater number of the press interested in his 'unsuccess'" than his predecessors had.

The Administration's critics quickly assumed today that Mr. Haldeman was reflecting the President's view in saying that those who attacked the latest Nixon plan to end the Vietnam war were "consciously aiding and abetting the enemy of the United States." But a White House spokesman asserted that the chief of staff was speaking for himself.

Those who know him—



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and few do outside the White House staff—contend that Mr. Haldeman does not shrink from differing with the President. The best-known example cited was his attempt to persuade Mr. Nixon in 1962 that he should not run for Governor of California. Mr. Nixon ran and lost, with the loyal Mr. Haldeman serving as campaign manager.

Mr. Haldeman who was born on Oct. 27, 1926, grew up in Beverly Hills, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of California in Los Angeles and spent 20 years as an advertising executive with the J. Walter Thompson Company.

He and his high-school

sweetheart, Joanne Horton, were married in 1949 and were just starting to rear their four children when Mr. Haldeman, schooled in anti-Communism by his grandfather, volunteered to work for the Vice-Presidential candidate, in 1952. He has been in every Nixon campaign since, gradually assuming a larger role.

A Christian Scientist, Mr. Haldeman neither drinks nor smokes, and he prefers a quiet evening with recorded country music to the Washington cocktail circuit. His austere clothing and unmodish crewcut set him apart from the tone of Washington, even in the Nixon White House.

He has been accused by critics, including the dismissed Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, of isolating the president. On the contrary, Mr. Haldeman has said, the careful screening of people and paper serves to achieve the opposite result. "If his door was always open and anyone who wanted could come in, then you'd call him unisolated," he explained. "But, then anyone—pressure groups or a pressure group—could completely dominate and he would be much more isolated."

Defenders of Mr. Haldeman contend as well that he is scrupulous in insuring that those views with which he disagrees are presented to the President. And a White House associate remarked that the proximity of Mr. Haldeman to Mr. Nixon may have served to temper the latter's actions.