

Nixon Press Aide Ziegler Gains New Authority

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Washington

Ronald L. Ziegler, 33-year-old press secretary to the President, has emerged in top position in a reorganization of the White House public relations machinery.

An announcement of Ziegler's new authority as the President's principal adviser on information policy is expected in the near future. He will also continue as White House spokesman.

Herbert G. Klein, the administration's 54-year-old communications director, is expected to leave the government in the relatively near future.

After last November's election it was announced that Klein would continue in office into the second term. But he made no secret of his intention to stay only for a limited period.

"I haven't determined when I'm going to leave, or what I'm going to do, so it is basically the same thing I've talked about before," Klein said yesterday.

"The President has asked me to stay on. I have no immediate plans to make a change. I haven't made any determination, except that I don't expect to stay indefinitely."

Ziegler is expected to be in full charge not only of the White House press operation, but of Klein's office, or what remains of it, as well.

Family Bibles For Nixon Inauguration

Washington

President Nixon will take his oath of office for the second time using two big brown-leather family Bibles, the White House said yesterday.

First lady Pat Nixon placed one of the Bibles in an inaugural display case, where tourists will get to see inaugural memorabilia during the next two months.

She said she will hold the Bibles again for her husband as she did when he took the oath of office in 1953 and 1957 as vice president and in 1969 as president.

The Nixon Bibles are from the President's mother's family, Mrs. Nixon said.

Associated Press

The chief question that has not been answered is where Ken W. Clawson, Klein's deputy, fits into the new scheme of things. Clawson is expected to remain in the administration, possibly as head of the old Klein office in the executive office building but under Ziegler.

In giving new power to Ziegler, the president is following a pattern already established of strengthening the hands of the small group of close associates in the White House.

The group includes H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman. Ziegler, Haldeman, Ehrlichman and national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger are the only officials who have easy access to the president's office and see him on a daily basis.

Nevertheless, in giving Ziegler new authority Mr. Nixon is turning full circle from his plan of four years ago when he said he would give no one the title of press secretary.

At first, Mr. Nixon described Ziegler as a "spokesman" only, but after a short time he relented and named him press secretary.

Although Ziegler is gaining new authority, his conduct of the press office is running into increasing criticism from newsmen. Particularly since the election he has been more close-mouthed than formerly.

He has increasingly turned over the chore of the daily press briefings to his deputy, Gerald L. Warren, who has been authorized to say very little.

Yesterday Warren declined to answer almost all questions asked him, even as to the President's plans for his 60th birthday today.

"Tomorrow is his 60th birthday, and I just don't know exactly where he will have dinner with his family on that occasion," Warren said in reply to question.

"Are you confident that tomorrow is his 60th birthday?" A reporter asked.

"Supremely," Warren replied.

For ten days or more reporters have asked for a breakdown of mail, pro and con, to the President on the Vietnam bombing operation. Each time they were asked, Ziegler or Warren would promise vaguely to supply the information.

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