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Ziegler Talks About His New Role

Washington

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler confirmed reports yesterday that he and communications director Herbert G. Klein are planning "some adjustments" in their offices, but he denied that he has been in a "power struggle" to gain dominance over federal public relations operations.

He did not deny that he will be the dominant federal official in the field. But he said he will not take over Klein's office when Klein leaves the administration at a future date.

Ziegler said he has been surveying government information officers and will assist cabinet officers in obtaining "good people for those jobs."

CONTROL

In the past, each cabinet officer has selected his own press spokesman. There have been indications that, in its move to gain complete control of each cabinet department, the White House intends to exercise stricter control over public relations appointees.

"The President has the greatest respect for Herb Klein and the job he has done," Ziegler said, adding that the President is disturbed by reports indicating Klein was being forced out.

"We're going to attempt to improve our relations with the press where we have had some shortcomings," Ziegler said.

He announced that President Nixon will deliver his State of the Union address this year in writing rather than in person because it will fall so soon after the inaugural address.

MESSAGES

Tentative plans call for the State of the Union to be sent to Congress January 26, the budget message January 29 and the economic report January 31.

The Council of Economic Advisers will remain intact in the second administration, with Herbert Stein continuing as chairman and Ezra Solomon and Marina Von Neumann Whitman as members, Ziegler said.

He confirmed reports that the President has accepted "with deep regret" four resignations from the Defense Department:

Assistant Secretary of Defense Robert C. Moot, the comptroller; Assistant Secretary Barry J. Shillito, who has been in charge of installations and logistics; Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Daniel Z. Henkin; and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Robert A. Frosch.

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