

Exodus From

Washington.

RARELY IN GOVERNMENTAL HISTORY HAS A PRESIDENT WITNESSED THE ALIENATION AND DEPARTURE OF SO MANY FAITHFUL SERVANTS AS RICHARD NIXON.

In the past, Cabinet members, agency drones and press secretaries have come and gone, occasionally with ruffled feathers, but it's always been a rather under-the-table affair. Rarely have VIPs left flapping their wings and squawking loudly.

This time it's a different matter. Disgruntled Administration workers are leaving in droves, verbalizing their anti-Administration venom fearlessly in press conferences and interviews. The theme is: Lack of Confidence, Disenchantment.

The greatest number of disaffected can be found in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The doctors say the Administration has put health at the bottom of the priority heap, health programs have gone down the drain, morale is low, research has fallen off, nutrition programs have been neglected and top officials aren't consulted, even for major policy decisions.

Six staff members of the National Security Council resigned in May over Cambodia and general disenchantment. The Commerce Department lost the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and International Affairs, Ken Davis. Roger Freeman, one of the President's economic advisors and most conservative staff member, resigned in June for being shut out of policy-making.

The casualty list is long. And it's not just hold-over Democrats reeling mid-Administration blues. Just as many Republicans are going.

LEON PANETTA, FORMER CIVIL RIGHTS CHIEF OF HEW, TRULY BELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WANTED TO "BRING THE COUN-



Toby Moffett . . . Morton Halperin

Washington



Kenneth Davis

TRY TOGETHER."

Under Secretary of HEW John Veneman convinced him of that and asked him to bring his first-hand experience with civil rights problems, gained in the military and on the staff of former Republican California Congressman Thomas Kuchel, to bear on national problems. It sounded challenging.

Panetta picked up his California stakes and moved to D.C. with high hopes. He plunged headlong into solving desegregation problems, traveling thousands of miles to talk to school officials and returned to Washington overwhelmed with the co-operation he found.

Then Nixon began to acquiesce under Southern Congressional pressure and, suddenly, desegregation deadlines softened. From benign neglect, he went to helping Florida Governor Kirk defy desegregation laws, nominating Carswell and Haynsworth and firing civil rights advocates like Dr. James Allen.

All of Panetta's efforts seemed fruitless.

Panetta took his case to

the White House, but found great "insensitivity." He told White House advisors his talks with blacks nationwide revealed that hatred, fear and suspicion of the Administration among blacks was rampant, but his pleas were disregarded.

"The blacks are not part of our constituency," said one presidential advisor. "The Administration wants to play down desegregation. It hurt the Demo-

crats." White House advisor Len Garment explained. "But don't worry. We'll get around to it. Things will work out."

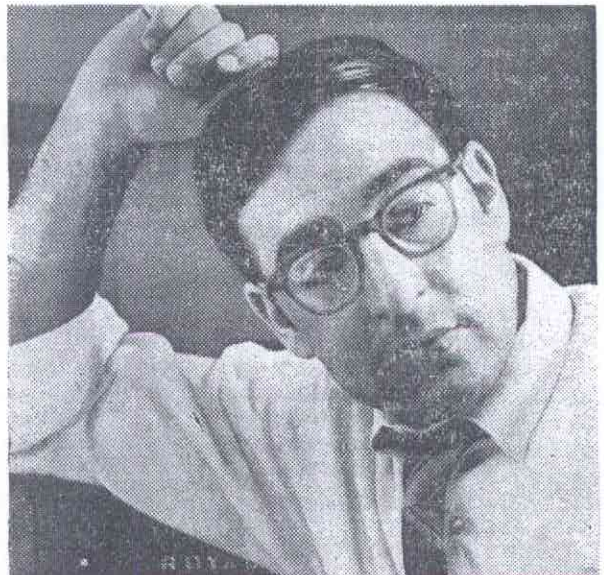
"I found myself out on a limb with no one behind me," says Panetta. He even tried publicly accusing White House advisors Bob Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and Harry Dent of being anti-desegregation. The accusation, coupled with an attempt to bring desegregation to the Maryland public school system, ended up badly. Vice President Agnew chastised him. Attorney General John Mitchell caed him a "zealot."

Now Panetta is writing a book about his 13 months of disillusionment. He's now an executive assistant to Mayor John Lindsay.

MORTON HALPERIN IS ANOTHER ONE OF THE BRIGHT YOUNG LIGHTS TO TURN OFF FROM THE ADMINISTRATION.

Thirty - one - year - old, Brooklyn-born and raised Halperin recently resigned as consultant to the President's advisor on National Security Affairs, Henry Kissinger, over the decision to enter Cambodia. He is only one of a dozen.

Halperin is one of those rather awesome young men who, at the age of 22, received his doctoral degree in political science from Yale and joined the



Leon Panetta

In Fashion

Exclusive from Women's Wear Daily

faculty of Harvard University. By the time he was 23, the Pentagon was after him to come to Washington, an offer which Halperin refused until 1966 when he came to Washington as

the special assistant to John McNaughton, the assistant secretary for International Security Affairs. A year later, he moved to the National Security Council. That he is a Republican is a fact which never entered Lyndon Johnson's consideration. Halperin was always consulted on foreign policy decisions. This time around it's another ball game. He knew nothing about Cambodia, for example, until after it was announced. He resigned, because he feels he would not be consulted on other decisions either.

TOBY (ANTHONY J.) MOFFETT SAYS "THE ADMINISTRATION HAS A RECIPE FOR POLARIZATION AND THAT'S WHAT'S DISASTROUS."

The 26-year-old resigned May 8 as director of the Office of Students and Youth in the Office of Education.

Toby is a bright, tousled-haired, brown eyed youth who proved his capability to lead, as an intern in the Office of Education during the Johnson Administration, and was asked to stay on by the Nixon team to head the new office of Students and Youth. He quit because he feels the Nixon Administration is splitting the country by talking out of both sides of his mouth.

Toby did not always feel that way.

"I said to myself, 'Even if you don't like Nixon personally, he's at least willing to bring good people like Bob Finch and James Allen Jr., in. He's willing to try.' I was working in good faith."

But now Toby says he sees that Finch and Allen and himself, as well, were "used" as "liberal fronts to make the Administration look good." Power was

quickly spirited away from their departments and centralized in the hands of White House advisors John Ehrlichman and Bob Haldeman, and justice in the hands of Attorney General John Mitchell.

Finch and Allen, like many other HEW officials, were excluded from important White House powwows.

Toby found himself talking to blank walls when he tried to explain to Nixon officials why there is high school violence.

But it was not until the cumulative effect of certain White House tactics hit him that Toby became disenchanted.

"First, they unleashed Spiro Agnew and John Mitchell. Then the Justice Department turned into a villain and began shooting and rounding up Black Panthers.

"I was appointed as an advocate for youth and so many things were happening against young kids that were attributable to the Administration, like Kent and Cambodia and being called 'bums,' that I felt I couldn't stay."