

Business Invited Into Government



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IN THE NAME of better understanding between government and industry, the Nixon Administration has been quietly planting business executives in key government positions where they can help their companies.

Any big corporation, which wants to keep on the good side of government, would like to have an inside man working in the government policy councils. President Nixon provided this opportunity for several corporations by setting in motion the President's Commission on Personnel Interchange in 1969.

The purpose, of course, was presented in noble terms. There would be an exchange of executives between government and industry to teach businessmen the bureaucratic ropes and thereby, to promote understanding.

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THE COMMISSION has been used by the big corporations, however, as a Trojan horse to infiltrate the government. At least 50 top business executives will be placed this summer in government jobs where they may be able to influence decisions affecting their companies.

Phillips Petroleum, for example, has already planted Robert Bowen inside the Treasury Department office which deals with oil and energy problems. Another oil executive, Tenneco's Ed Bridges, is working on East-West trade at the Commerce Department. The oil companies, of course, have a multi-million-dollar stake in East-

West trade. Here are a couple of other examples from the commission's internal files:

● The Bank of America tried to place Joe Mason, "a bright young attorney," on the potent Securities and Exchange Commission. Wrote the bank's assistant vice president, T. M. Quigg: "A year's tour with the (SEC) would be extremely beneficial to Mr. Mason." The SEC has been approached, we're told, about taking Mason.

● In a reverse exchange, the Pacific-Sierra Research Corp. hired on loan from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base a specialist who was immediately put in charge of a research project that the company wants the military to fund. The company president, Frank Thomas, specified that he wanted to hire William J. Parker under the exchange program.

A cursory review by the Air Force found the loan of Parker to Pacific-Sierra would create "no problem involving a conflict of interest." Yet only two weeks later, Parker reported to the commission: "I will be the program director for a major research effort currently under negotiation with DOD (Defense Department)."

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THE COMMISSION'S chief matchmaker, whose job it is to wed big business with big government, is Jay Leanse himself an ex-businessman. Less than a year on the job, the soft-spoken Leanse finds his staff in revolt, his budget \$70,000 in the hole and his chief White House sponsor, John Ehrlichman, in political disgrace.