

Aftermath of Resignations

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Big Holes in Nixon's

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Washington

A gaping hole has been left in the White House staff by the resignations under fire of H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, the two men who have been with the President longer than any others on the staff and who have been his most trusted advisers.

While there is no assistant to either man equipped to fill his shoes, substantively or in the confidence of the

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President, the chief void will be felt by the President rather than by the remaining staff

members.

Whether Mr. Nixon will seek new confidants to replace the two departed aides or whether he will restructure his staff will depend on his own evolving approach to the staff problem in the light of changed circumstances.

ALONE

He is almost alone in lamenting the fall from grace of his two chief aides. Tears were not shed by members of Congress, by the Republican National Committee or even by many White House staff members.

"I need him," President Eisenhower said plaintively in 1958 when the demand was first made for the discharge of Sherman Adams, then the most important presidential assistant. (It is

ironic to remember that Adams was always convinced that Vice President Nixon was one of those who advised General Eisenhower to ask for his resignation.)

"I need them," Mr. Nixon may have said to himself many times in recent weeks as other Republican leaders demanded the scalps of Haldeman and Ehrlichman, and he implied as much publicly yesterday in attempting to give the appearances that they are leaving with honor.

SECRETARY

There is one person left among the original Nixon assistants who may become more important even than in the past. Rose Mary Woods, the President's principal secretary, has been with him since he was a member

of the House.

She was at Camp David over the weekend when the final decisions were made to clean house. She knows the President's ways and she knows his old friends. Now the capable Miss Woods is guarding the President's door and helping to determine who sees him and who does not.

TECHNICIANS

The new structure will emerge slowly, aides now believe. If new top aides are brought in, new faces may also be seen down the lines as the new men create their own staffs and develop their ways of doing business for the President.

Ehrlichman and Haldeman personified the up-tight Teutonic atmosphere at the Nixon White House and the

Staff

bulk, of the men who worked for them are technicians they recruited and directed.

Haldeman has commanded the speechwriters, the White House press office, the congressional liaison team, the appointments and scheduling operation, the President's travels and the large staff of secretaries and administrative personnel in the White House.

His assistants have been just that, never powerful in their own right.

Ehrlichman's own personal staff has been of the same type. Under him is the important Domestic Council, now headed by Kenneth Cole, who, with the departure of Ehrlichman, will work more closely with Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz and the three Cabinet officers who also are presidential assistants: Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development James T. Lynn and Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Shultz, already one of the most influential men in the administration, is expected to play an even more significant role in shaping administration domestic policy.

FRIENDS

In picking Leonard Garment to be acting counsel and Secretary of Defense Elliot L. Richardson to be attorney general, Mr. Nixon



ROSE MARY WOODS
Mr. Nixon's secretary

named two men he has known a long time and trusts.

If he names two new staff men, he may follow the same course, if he can. He characteristically did not go outside for new faces as many persons have urged, but sought men with whom he is comfortable.

UNDERCUT

If he does go outside and choose independent-minded men to join his staff, it will show how deeply he thinks the scandals have undercut his presidency and how far he will move from his moorings to bring about radical reform.

The shakeup also may mean that Mr. Nixon, who has believed that almost anyone can run the domestic side of the government and that a President should concentrate on foreign policy, will now be forced to pay more attention to domestic issues and relations with Congress, the governors and mayors, and with the Republican National Committee.