

Nixon Facing a Black Exodus

Washington

The Nixon administration faces an exodus of its top black officials, who are distressed over the administration's civil rights policies.

At least two black officials have indicated that they plan to quit their posts shortly, while several others have set an informal deadline of June or the administration to make some positive changes. The White House, distressed that such an effort might snowball and result in the loss of all senior black officials, plans what it considers major moves soon to counter the threat, according to a high administration official.

MOVES

Such moves would be intended to hold black officials already in the administration, attract more in high positions and attract black voters in 1972, the official said. Steps under consideration include a major policy statement, possibly in the State of the Union message later this month; the naming of blacks to key White House positions and improvement and stronger enforcement of programs aimed at blacks and other minorities, such as the Philadelphia plan and minority capitalism.

"But the immediate problem is to prevent any of the blacks already here from leaving, or we won't be able to attract anybody," the official commented.

ANONYMOUS

The black officials who said they plan to leave insisted on anonymity at this time.

They said they are "looking for some kind of moral leadership, a positive statement, a good, strong speech from the White House to take some of the heat off us in the black community."

Blacks appointed by Mr. Nixon met with him last March and implored him to

rights matters. They have been disappointed in the action he has taken since then, several said.

"If the administration does not move by the beginning of summer to improve its image, I don't see how I can remain on board," one black official remarked.

"If nothing is done by then, it definitely will be too late for us to try and be effective in the coming election year campaign. If things don't improve, we won't have anything at all to sell to the black community."

Insensitivity

One black who said he will leave regardless feels it is too late for the Administration to attempt a major change to attract blacks, that any more would be "too little, too late." He said "many of the people around Mr. Nixon just have no understanding of or sensitivity to the problems of blacks."

Another official cited an example. He said a Negro official and his white superior were speaking before separate black audiences at a black meeting. Afterwards, the black official went to the hotel room of his superior, who immediately chastised the black for not being at the same session to take some of the heat.

"But I was catching hell at the other meeting," the black official said.

"Yes, but that's what we pay you to do," his boss shot back.

OFFICIAL

Arthur Fletcher, assistant secretary of labor, was the only black official willing to be quoted by name. He confirmed that many black officials are uneasy over administration policy. He said he is optimistic there will be substantial change over the next few months, but he said the situation right now is critical because the black leaders and the community expect change.

Blacks Are Urged To Vote Nixon Out

New York

Civil rights leader Bayard Rustin said yesterday that 1971 should be the year in which black people "dedicate themselves to removing that national disaster from the White House in 1972."

Rustin, the executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, said Negroes will not be able to gain equality as long as President Nixon remains in office. He said Mr. Nixon's economic policies were helping to divide the country.

"As long as there's a scarcity of jobs," Rustin said in a television interview, "blacks and whites are going to hate each other."

COMPETITION

He said competition for housing, education and other advantages also feeds black and white hatred.

Looking back, Rustin said the past decade saw more gains for Negroes than any other period in American history.

"There has never been more progress for black people than there has been in the last 10 years," Rustin said. "And no President ever did more for black folks than Lyndon Johnson."

Rustin, who led the 1963 Civil Rights March in Washington, cited some of the landmark legislation passed

during the Johnson Administration and said progress, particularly in education, had been made to a greater degree under Johnson than any other president.

GAINS

Although he admitted many gains had been made, Rustin cautioned blacks against expecting too much, too soon. He said the tendency among the black militants is to expect instant freedom. But, he said, the future leaders of the black community will come from the moderate faction.

"I think you'll find future leaders in the NAACP and not the Panthers," Rustin said. He said the fate of the militants rests in the hands of whites who give them only three choices: "Exile, jail, or death by blacks hired by whites."

United Press