

Aides Say Nixon's Plans Could Expand His Power

NYTimes By ROBERT B. SEMPLE NOV 10 1972

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KEY BISCAVNE, Fla., Nov. 9—High Administration sources suggested today that President Nixon's announced intention to restructure the Federal Government could

further increase the authority of his own Executive Office and accelerate a long-term decline in the power of the Cabinet.

Although officials here would not speculate on how the President intended to overhaul the Cabinet departments, a high official in the Office of Management and Budget said that proposals had been made to the President that would increase the supervisory and management powers of the White House and the Budget Bureau over the major Cabinet departments.

No Final Decision

The sources said that Mr. Nixon's longer-range plan to combine existing Government agencies could not be done without Congressional approval. Nor, they said, could he succeed in his effort to abolish or combine Federal programs without authorization from Capitol Hill.

But his short-term goal is to improve relationship between policy makers in the White House and bureaucrats down below, who are not always responsive to White House directives.

One possibility, they suggested, was a series of supervisory committees that would include key White House personnel and would, presumably, exercise a careful control on the Cabinet departments. But

Continued on Page 21, Column 5

An Unusual Move

Although it is traditional for persons at the higher levels of the Government to hand in their resignations in order to give the President a free hand at the start of a new term, Mr. Nixon's decision to impose that custom on lesser officials was regarded as unusual.

And while it was clear that Mr. Nixon would not accept all, or even many of the resignations, the move provided further evidence of his belief that personnel changes, to be genuinely effective, must reach below the most senior level.

Mr. Ziegler said the President spent much of his day at his Key Biscayne home with H. R. Haldeman, his chief of staff, and John D. Ehrlichman, his principal domestic adviser, in conversations "relating to the restructuring of government during his second term." However, Mr. Ziegler provided little information on what fundamental changes the President hoped to make.

But a high and well-informed source in the Office of Management and Budget said in an interview this afternoon that the President's immediate goal was to find some means of translating his wishes and policies more effectively to the operating departments.

2 Means Suggested

The O.M.B. source suggested that one means of doing this would be to strengthen the management and supervisory capabilities of the White House's Domestic Council, now headed by Mr. Ehrlichman. Its assigned duty now is to exercise a largely creative function by devising new programs.

In addition, the source said, the management and supervisory functions of the O.M.B. might also be strengthened. The agency is now headed by Caspar Weinberger, and is the principal White House watchdog over the day-to-day affairs of the Cabinet departments.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1972

AIDES SAY NIXON MAY GAIN POWER

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

the sources emphasized that Mr. Nixon and his chief aides had made no final decision.

In a related development, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said that Mr. Nixon had asked for the resignation of some 2,000 high government officials.

Yesterday, Mr. Ziegler said the President had requested the resignation of all Presidential appointees. Today, he disclosed that the request also covered some 1,400 to 1,800 so-called Schedule C employees — those appointed to important posts by agency heads.