

NIXON INCREASES SCOPE OF DUTIES FOR 3 IN CABINET

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Reorganization Plans Advanced Without Congress Action

By JOHN HERBERS
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—President Nixon announced today that he was placing into effect, as far as he was able by Executive order, the Government reorganization plan that he proposed in early 1971 but Congress declined to enact.

The changes, without action by Congress, will go a long way toward achieving Mr. Nixon's goal of consolidating authority under a few Cabinet heads. He said that his action would also reduce the White House staff, from 4,000 to about 2,000.

Although the action seemed to indicate a further weakening of Congressional authority, there was no immediate protest from Congressional leaders, and the President insisted that it would not impinge in any way on Congressional relations with the executive branch.

Three Cabinet officers will be elevated to the level of White House counselor while continuing to retain their Cabinet titles. They will be given broadened responsibility, virtually as if they were heading the consolidated departments that Mr. Nixon had asked of Congress. They can be called to testify before Congress.

Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary-designate of Health, Education and Welfare, will be counselor for human resources with responsibility for health, education, manpower, development, income security, social services, Indian and native peoples, drug abuse and consumer protection—functions that are now scattered in a number of

departments and agencies.

Community Development

James T. Lynn, Secretary-designate of Housing and Urban Development, will be counselor for community development with authority over community institutions, community planning, housing, highways, public transportation, regional development, disaster relief and national capital affairs—functions that are now chiefly in H.U.D. and the Transportation and Agriculture Departments.

Dr. Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Agriculture, will be counselor for natural resources with responsibility for natural resource use, lands and minerals, environment, outdoor recreation, water control and park and wildlife resources—functions that are now largely in the Agriculture and Interior Departments.

The three will take places in the Administration hierarchy roughly equivalent to those now held by two Presidential assistants—Treasury Secretary George L. Shultz, who earlier

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was given responsibility over economic programs, and Henry A. Kissinger, who has long overseen foreign affairs.

Mr. Nixon said that under the reorganization, three other assistants would also have high authority and responsibility: R. H. Haldemann, who will be in charge of administration of the White House office; John D. Ehrlichman, who will continue to oversee all domestic affairs, and Roy L. Ash, who will be director of the Office of Management and Budget.

President Nixon disclosed his plans to a group of Congressional leaders of both parties who met with him at the White House for almost two hours this morning. He later released a statement outlining his plan, and Mr. Ehrlichman met with reporters to explain it.

"I trust," said the President in his statement, "that the members of the House and Senate received the same message that

I did when we went to the people last fall, the message that Americans are fed up with wasteful, musclebound government in Washington and anxious for change that works."

"Though the actual integration of fragmented departmental operations must wait on Congressional action," Mr. Nixon said, "the broadening of policy perspectives on the part of top managers and advisers can be achieved at once."

"Similarly, we can and will begin now to realize, at least within the executive office of the President, the increased efficiency and economy which thinned-out organization charts and leaner personnel rolls would bring to the whole executive branch under full-scale reorganization."

The changes are expected to enhance Mr. Nixon's efforts to get a firmer control on the bureaucracy. The three Cabinet officers to be elevated will have offices in the Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House while their deputies stay in the departments

to see to their day-to-day operations.

President Nixon sent his reorganization plan to Congress almost two years ago, but it was never reported out of any of the various committees that had jurisdiction.

There were a number of objections—that some departments would be abolished; that too much power would be placed in the hands of a few executive managers; that the small, weaker interests and minority groups would have less access to the authorities in charge, and that Congress would have to reorganize its committee structure to deal with the new departments.

Mr. Ehrlichman said that no Congressional reorganization would be needed under the President's plan because the departments as now structured would remain in place. They will have super-Secretaries over them.

For example, Rogers C. B. Morton will continue to be Secretary of Interior responsible for running the department, but on most policy matters arising in

his department must report to Dr. Butz.

The three super-Secretaries named today will report to the President through Mr. Ehrlichman, who described himself as "more of a conduit" in the arrangement than a decision-maker.

Domestic Council Stays

The Domestic Council, which President Nixon established within the White House in 1969, will continue to function, Mr. Ehrlichman said, chiefly as a means of bringing together information and proposals in the domestic area. However, the staff will be cut, from 66 to 30 people.

Mr. Nixon said that the Executive Office of the President, usually referred to as the overall White House staff, had mushroomed to handle "ad hoc problems" but had failed to

come to grips with fundamental needs.

"I am now taking action to cut the total personnel of the Executive Office of the President by well over half, and to reduce substantially the number of organizations which now make up the E.O.P.," Mr. Nixon said.

In the meeting with Congressional leaders, Mr. Nixon also said that he would send to Congress soon legislation on what to do about wage and price controls after April.

There was no hint of what the legislation would contain, but speculation has been that the White House will ask for legislation similar to that on the books, which gives the Administration wide latitude in imposing the kind of controls it wants.

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