

President Realigns His Staff

Butz, Lynn Weinberger in Super-Cabinet

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By Lou Cannon

Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon moved yesterday to shakeup and streamline the sprawling federal bureaucracy along functional lines by giving three Cabinet members broad authority as counselors for natural resources, human resources and community development.

Mr. Nixon also named five high-ranking members of his staff as assistants to the President with responsibilities "to integrate and unify policies and operations throughout the executive branch . . . and to oversee all of the activities for which the President is responsible."

"Americans are fed up with wasteful, musclebound government in Washington and anxious for change that works," the President said in a statement accompanying his reorganization order.

Under the reorganization, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz will assume the additional duties of counselor on natural resources. Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary-designate of Health, Education and Welfare, will become human resources counselor and James T. Lynn, Secretary-designate of Housing and Urban Development, will become community development counselor.

Creation of this functional "super-Cabinet" closely follows the plan outlined by Mr. Nixon in the reorganization proposal he made to Congress in 1970. It has never been acted upon.

However, John D. Ehrlichman, domestic affairs adviser to the President, said the plan announced yesterday was "less than half a loaf" of what the President desired in the way of federal reorganization. He said that the administration would continue to seek con-

gressional enactment of the full reorganizational plan.

Ehrlichman is one of the five high-ranking staff members who will become a presidential assistant under the reorganization. President Nixon called these five men "the nucleus" of his second-term staff.

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The five are H. R. Haldeman, administration of the White House Office; Henry A. Kissinger, foreign affairs; Ehrlichman, domestic affairs; George P. Shultz, economic affairs and Roy L. Ash, executive management.

Unlike the appointment of the counselors, this management change appears chiefly to be one of designation. Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Kissinger will continue to perform roles similar to the ones they occupied in the first term, and Shultz and Ash previously had been designated as assistants to the President.

Two other administrative appointees also were previously named assistants to the President for the second term. They are Peter M. Flanigan,

who has responsibility for international economic affairs, and William E. Timmons, for legislative liaison.

Ehrlichman said that the reorganization will enable the President to make a 50 per cent cutback in personnel employed by the Executive Office of the President. The size of the office more than doubled in Mr. Nixon's first term, to a total staff of 4,216 persons.

As counselor on natural resources, Butz will have responsibility for issues involving natural resource use, land and minerals, the environment, outdoor recreation, water navigation and park and wildlife resources in addition to his continuing duties as Secretary of Agriculture.

Weinberger's responsibilities will extend to health, education, manpower, income security, social services, "Indians and native peoples," drug abuse and consumer protection.

Under Lynn's jurisdiction

will be problems of community planning, community institutions, housing, highways, public transportation, regional

development, disaster relief and national capital affairs.

Butz, Weinberger and Lynn each will chair a committee on the Domestic Council made up of department and agency heads. The President said these committees will operate similarly to the new Council on Economic Affairs, announced last month and chaired by Shultz, which will coordinate all departments and agencies dealing with economic policy.

The new reorganization appears to diminish the traditional role of the presidential Cabinet and of the individual Cabinet members except for the three counselors. Many of the functions which Butz, for example, will be coordinating have traditionally been under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. A number of Lynn's responsibilities extend to programs administered by the Department of Transportation.

However, the President said in his statement that the functions of the 11 executive departments of the independent agencies will remain unchanged. This is a sensitive



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President Nixon breakfasts with House Speaker Carl Albert and Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.), House Minority Leader.

point in the Congress, which is concerned about maintaining specific legislative jurisdiction over the various agencies.

President Nixon has never

cared very much for full Cabinet sessions, which Ehrlichman referred to yesterday as "show-and-tell sessions." Instead, Mr. Nixon has from the outset of his first administration preferred small, compact groups with specifically defined responsibilities.

The announcements of intended cutbacks in the executive office made no mention of any reduction in the White House staff, which the President said earlier should set an economy example for other agencies.

Ehrlichman said an announcement on White House staff reductions would be forthcoming within a week to 10 days.



The nucleus of the Nixon staff, from top left, H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, Henry A. Kissinger; from bottom left, George P. Shultz, Roy L. Ash.



EARL L. BUTZ
... natural resources



JAMES T. LYNN
... community development



CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
... human resources