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Tom Wicker

on the White House staff. disclosures, for a stronger public check necessity, made urgent by these same expected; but it does not change the clout as much as might have been have not reduced Mr. Nixon's political suggest that the Watergate disclosures move two high officials from office, President Nixon's veto, this time of a approve their reappointment. This may then to assert the Senate's right to misdirected Congressional effort to re-The House, as usual, has sustained

to positions of immense institutional its right to confirm future appointees no question of propriety or necessity stitutional barrier—certainly there is Congress thought, unconstitutional, be-The bill Mr. Nixon vetoed was ill-advised and, as some members of -to prevent Congress from legislating over two men already in office. Neverabout and retroactive night of approval cause it attempted to assert a roundtheless, there appears to be no con-

President or any high official to have No one will question the right of a

tually no real authority.

Thus, when Mr. Nixon named John

any number of regulatory and inde-

pendent agency officials—some of virtheir assistants, Federal judges and routinely required for Cabinet officers, 1973

a small, personal, private staff im-mediately answerable to him alone. tial relationship with the President. considerable power, which will always Nor will such persons ever be without flow from such a close and confiden-

to the same Congressional scrutiny surely he should be subject at least making him one of the two or three with a fiscal and policy jurisdiction adviser, although admittedly an immost powerful men in the Government, Office of Management and Budget, superior in fact to constitutional offiportant one-becomes director of the director—once primarily a technical can. When the President's budget ces, in all cases cloaked in vast execuever, when such personal assistants the lives and fortunes of every Ameritive authority and the ability to affect institutional positions, in some cases It is quite a different matter, howadvisers also are given great Secretary of the Treasury. time sional

lished, then abandoned in the wreckage exceeds that of the Secretary of State; Council, since his power now vastly and for so-called "super-Cabinet" posiecutive head of the National Security ions like those Mr. Nixon first estab-The same might be said for the ex-

IN THE NATION

Too Much Unchecked Power

of the Secretary of Defense or the no more be exempt from check-andwithout any kind of hearing, or testibalance government than should that mony, or approval by anyone? Such an office, even if highly concerned with Administration policies, should have been given such great authority his chair on the White House staff, for all domestic policies, why should Nixon organized the Domestic Council, that was his right, without Congres-Ehrlichman his special counsel at the with authority over several Cabinet departments and great responsibility Ehrlichman, merely by changing the Administration was formed, intercession. But when Mr.

is no reason why even more power should be collected by the White small by swift communication. That technological advance and extraordito the White House, in a century of House, or why the power already renary involvement in a world made legitimately to the executive branch, hence even in more concentrated form Power, of necessity, has shifted

of his Administration wrought by the

must; and they can exercise that far If considered only as staff aides to the enough to demand more than one (whether he does or not). ficials, "the President wishes . . ." greater, truly immeasurable, testify publicly and in Congressional privilege" (if that concept survives President-which makes a mockery of Watergate); they can also refuse to man's approval of their appointments. tive powers, which would be reason tangible power of saying to other ofhearings, as Cabinet officers routinely they can readily invoke "executive language as well as of political fact wield great executive and administra-Men in such positions do not merely but in-

siding there should not be more thorby Senate scrutiny of the personalities oughly checked and balanced, at least involved.

made of it all too nearly a Frankention of practices common in every personalities insufficiently scrutinized trolled power to the Presidency has more clearly that the rush of uncon-Administration from Roosevelt's to veillance that Mr. Nixon and his men surely at the uglier roots of the "in-Watergate scandal, and even Kennedy's, the point is only made the put together in 1970. If, as has been ternal security" scheme for illegal surwere, in fact, at the ugly roots of the reported, that plan was for a resumpstein's monster. Power insufficiently controlled and more

gretted. vertently referred to as the Committee for Public Safety. Both errors are remittee for Public Justice was inade District Court. On May 20, the Com-Supreme Court decision in U.S. v. U.S. liam Rehnquist participated in the It was incorrectly suggested in this space on May 18 that Mr. Justice Wil-

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