

NIXON MAY NAME INTERIM ADVISER

MAY 4 1973

Weekend Decision Expected
at Florida White House

NYTimes

By BILL KOVACH

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, May 3—President Nixon is expected to announce this weekend the appointment of an interim adviser to fill top White House staff vacancies created by the resignations of H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman.

White House sources said that a good part of the President's time today was devoted to discussions with advisers about his staff and that announcements about personnel could be expected during the President's weekend stay at Key Biscayne. Mr. Nixon flew there today.

Although no details of the expected announcements could be learned, the nature of White House operations indicates that the most urgent need is for someone to function at the top and that vacancies in the Haldeman and Ehrlichman posts cannot be tolerated for long.

Few observers believe that the President is ready to make a permanent appointment to either position. Any name announced this weekend will most likely be a temporary appointment, they feel.

Possible Successors Mentioned

There has been speculation that the President would move quickly to fill the Haldeman and Ehrlichman posts to avoid the appearance that the Watergate affair had paralyzed his Administration. Among those who have been mentioned as possible interim staff directors are former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird; a former White House adviser, Robert H. Finch, and the former Democratic Governor of Texas, John B. Connally, who became a Republican yesterday.

In the meantime, White House sources have reported a "jelling" of other staff assignments. Kenneth W. Cole, who was executive director of the domestic policy staff for several months, is now spoken of as "the man in charge" of domestic programs.

The sources took great pains to paint a picture of continuity in both domestic and foreign operations of the White House staff.

In addition to the claim that Mr. Cole is clearly directing work on domestic legislation and programs, it was pointed out that the senior men advising the President "are in place."

Plans Pompidou Meeting

Specifically the spokesman cited Budget Director Roy L. Ash, Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz, the foreign affairs adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, and the Congressional liaison, William E. Timmons.

Much of the President's time this morning was occupied by his staff problems, but a White House spokesman said that Mr. Nixon also began planning for his May 31 meeting in Iceland with President Georges Pompidou of France before leaving from Andrews Air Force Base for Florida.

Mr. Nixon, accompanied by his wife and their daughter, Mrs. David Eisenhower, paused briefly to wave to some 125 people awaiting his arrival at Homestead Air Force Base near here in midafternoon. He then went immediately to his helicopter for the short trip to Key Biscayne. He was met at the plane by his friend, Charles G. Rebozo, and his dog King Timahoe.