

Mitchell, Stans Indicted in Vesco Case; Schlesinger to Pentagon, Colby to CIA; FBI Tap Disclosed at Ellsberg Trial

Part-time Presidential Adviser

Connally on Nixon Staff



JAMES B. SCHLESINGER
... Defense Secretary



WILLIAM E. COLBY
... CIA director



JOHN B. CONNALLY
... presidential adviser

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In a major administration reshuffle forced by Watergate disclosures, President Nixon yesterday named CIA director James R. Schlesinger Secretary of Defense and former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally a part-time presidential adviser.

Mr. Nixon said he will nominate William E. Colby, the Central Intelligence Agency's deputy director for operations, to succeed Schlesinger.

From the Defense Department, the President tapped J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., the Pentagon's general counsel, to be special counsel to the President to handle all Watergate matters affecting the White House.

Yesterday's shift of positions was the second major one in less than two weeks. On April 30, the President announced the resignations of H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and John W. Dean III from the White House staff and of Richard G. Kleindienst as Attorney General.

That day, the President moved Elliot L. Richardson from Secretary of Defense to the post of Attorney General. Richardson, former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, had been at the Pentagon only since Feb. 1. Like Richardson, Schlesinger had just taken over the CIA directorship in February, after serving as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The President also told his Cabinet yesterday, at a meeting attended by both Connally and Schlesinger that there would be more direct personal communications with each member. Mr. Nixon said he was ending the "super Cabinet" arrangement in which three Cabinet officers had broadened responsibility and acted as counselors to the President, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler reported.

The three who revert to regular Cabinet status are James T. Lynn of the Transportation Department, Caspar W. Weinberger of Health, Education and Welfare, and Earl L. Butz, of Agriculture. Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz will retain his added

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assignment as assistant to the President.

In yesterday's actions, the President followed a pattern he set earlier in reorganizing his administration in the wake of the Watergate disclosures and the resulting resignations. He turned to old and trusted advisers instead of going outside.

However, informed sources said that the President emphasized in the Cabinet meeting and in a meeting with Republican congressional leaders that he would move outside that close circle in future appointments.

In the past, a criticism in Congress, among Cabinet officers and from the press was that presidential aides Haldeman and Ehrlichman erected a "Berlin wall" around the President, shielding him from critics and friends alike.

Mr. Nixon reportedly promised to "enlarge" and strengthen the White House legislative staff under William E. Timmons and to make himself more frequently available to members of Congress. The Cabinet departments were instructed to strengthen their legislative liaison—as well as to seek Capitol Hill contacts on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Nixon also promised a decentralization of authority away from the White House and to the Cabinet departments.

With Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. now the White House staff chief instead of Haldeman, there will be a different approach, with more reliance on the established bureaucracy, more freedom for departments to be true executors of policy and with new pledges to spread rather than to concentrate authority.

Whether the new promises will be carried out remains to be seen, but the change in intentions reflects

the extent to which the President has been shaken out of old habits.

Reports on Capitol Hill that he is considering bringing Secretary of State William P. Rogers into the White House and making national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger Secretary of State were denied by an official spokesman.

Connally, who recently switched to the Republican Party, will serve without pay and will have no operational responsibilities, Ziegler said. Connally will make himself available on a part-time basis whenever the President wishes to consult him, the press secretary explained.

The rest of his time Connally will devote to his law practice in Houston. Ziegler insisted that there would be no conflict of interest between Connally's public and private life.

In answer to questions, Ziegler said the President could consult anyone he wishes, but that he was sure he would not consult Connally on oil problems, for example, since Connally's law firm represents oil interests.

They will consult "on a broad range of matters," foreign as well as domestic, but the President does not expect to give Connally specific operational assignments, Ziegler said.

"I am sure the President and Governor Connally would in any discussion eliminate anything that would involve conflict of interest," Ziegler maintained.

While the Connally and Buzhardt appointments are for an interim period, Ziegler indicated they may last months rather than weeks.

The exact lines of authority between special counsel Buzhardt and acting presidential counsel Leonard Garment were not spelled out in the Ziegler announcement, but both appear to have some responsibility in Watergate matters while Buzhardt has the major responsibility.

Garment will be in charge of preparing legislation the President has promised to guard against future corruption in political campaigns, Ziegler said, and will have all the other duties of a White House counsel.

Garment was named acting counsel after Dean's departure from the post last week.

The new Secretary of Defense-designate, taught economics at the University of Virginia and was a senior member of the Rand Corp. before joining the government in 1969. While an assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget, a report he prepared caught the President's attention. From OMB, Schlesinger moved to the chairmanship of the AEC and more recently to the CIA.

His successor at the CIA, Colby, has spent three decades in intelligence, starting with the Office of Strategic Services in World War II. He served as first secretary of the U.S. embassy in Saigon from 1959 to 1962 and then he returned to Washington as chief of the CIA's Far East division. In 1968, he went back to Vietnam and took over the pacification program until June of 1971.

Buzhardt practiced law in South Carolina before coming to Washington in 1961, where he worked for eight years on the staff of Sen. Strom Thurmond. He joined the Defense Department in 1969.