

What Nixon Said Of a Top Adviser

Washington

Almost from the beginning, when Herbert G. Klein left his job as editor of the San Diego Union to join the Nixon administration as director of communications, friends felt he was being pushed into the background.

They usually blamed the White House palace guard, particularly the then chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman, for increasingly cutting Klein off from access to the President.

But the new transcripts released by President Nixon yesterday show the President himself sharply derogating his longtime supporter and adviser.

"He just doesn't really have his head screwed on, Bob," Mr. Nixon told Halde-

man in a June 23, 1972, conversation in the Oval Office.

"He just doesn't know," Mr. Nixon went on. "He just sort of blubbers around. I don't know how he does TV so well."

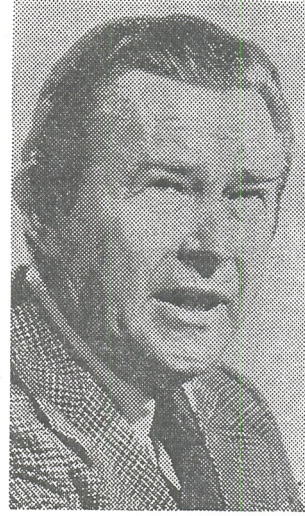
Earlier in the same session the President told Haldeman:

"You've just not got to let Klein ever set up a meeting again. He just doesn't have his head screwed on. You know what I mean. He just opens it up and sits there with eggs on his face. He's just not our guy at all, is he?"

"No," Haldeman agreed. The conversation continued:

Nixon: Absolutely, totally, unorganized.

Haldeman: He's a very nice guy.



HERB KLEIN
He 'blubbers around'

Nixon: People love him, but damn is he unorganized.

Klein resigned his White House job in 1973. He is now a Los Angeles-based vice president of Metromedia Inc., a broadcasting concern.

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