

NYT 8-7-74

# Aide's Bland Jargon Fails to Cloak White House Gloom

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6— Gerald L. Warren, the deputy Presidential press secretary, seemed to be trying his best to pull a cloak of blandness over the whole thing.

But there was not way to escape the sense of gloom and shock at the White House today.

President Nixon's revelation yesterday of his role in the Watergate cover-up had crumpled his support in Congress where the distasteful business of impeachment has begun.

Today Mr. Nixon called in his Cabinet. The members discussed "the difficulties of the times," Mr. Warren said. They also talked of "Constitutional process," as Mr. Warren insisted on calling impeachment.

Pressed against the White House fence outside, about 100 persons peered in across the green grass and black asphalt drives to the cluster of limousines and reporters standing outside the West Wing.

It was the first such crowd since the so-called "Saturday night massacre" last Oct. 20, when Archibald Cox was dismissed as special prosecutor and Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and his deputy, William D. Ruckelshaus, resigned. The crowd was larger than, and some people carried signs urging passing motorists to "honk" for impeachment; the automobile horns could be heard inside the White House.

### An Expectancy

"We have a feeling that something's about to happen, and we hope it will happen," said Ruth Midcalf of Virginia Beach, Va. She was standing at the fence with her daughter, Faulkner, 12 years old.

"Needless to say, I was never a Nixon supporter," Mrs. Midcalf said. She enjoyed the impeachment debates: "I was a seven-course meal."

James L. Johnson of Baltimore had come to Washington today to look for a job and stopped by the gate. It's a historic moment—

something you ain't going to see too much in a lifetime," he said.

Cyril G. Leech of Tulsa, Okla., said he would for Mr. Nixon again today and that the Watergate break-in was justified.

"They just got caught, that's all," he said. Inside the fence, George Joutwan, top deputy to the White House chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig, came out on the lawn as the cabinet was gathering.

The regular 8:30 A.M. meeting of top White House staff members was just over. There were questions by reporters and he admitted "it looks bad" for Mr. Nixon.

But Mr. Joutwan reported that everyone at the meeting had pledged to support the President in following "the constitutional process."

The usually rigid White House rules seemed to melt a bit. Photographers were allowed inside the cabinet room for what the White House press aides call a "photo opportunity." The President, sitting next to

Secretary of State Kissinger, showed not a trace of change.

At least one photographer disregarded the signal to stop taking pictures and leave the room. Mr. Warren threatened to remove his pass, but no one took the threat seriously.

The crowd of reporters — swollen to about 200 — swarmed around the few Cabinet members who passed by when the meeting was over. The White House police had ordered them back on the lawn, but they surged forward anyway in a mob scene seldom witnessed at the White House.

### Muted Questions

Inside the West Wing offices of Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, aides could be seen peering out the windows at the unusual crush of reporters.

At the daily press briefings questions have sometimes become acerbic. But today they seemed muted. Someone asked how Herbert Klein, the former White

House director of communications, felt about the President's statements in one of yesterday's transcripts of White House tape recordings.

"He just doesn't have his head screwed on. You know what I mean?" the President quoted as saying the transcript also quoted the President as calling Mr. Klein "absolutely, totally, unmorganized."

"The President," Mr. Warren said, "numbers Herb Klein as one of his closest friends."

There were scattered chuckles. Mr. Warren said that some could "sit in the back of the room and laugh about this," but that he was sure Mr. Klein understood the remark in the "perspective" in which it was offered.

Mr. Warren said the Cabinet meeting had been a gathering of the President's "official family" and that it had discussed "the events of the day with feeling."

Mr. Warren did not elaborate.



President Nixon, flanked by Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger, right, and Secretary of State Kissinger, meeting with top associates yesterday. Clockwise, from left: Secretaries James T. Lynn of Housing and Urban Development, Earl L. Butz of Agriculture and William E. Simon of Treasury; Vice President Ford; Attorney General William B.

Saxbe; Roy L. Ash, director of Management and Budget; George Bush, Republican National Chairman; Dean Burch, Presidential aide; Casper W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary of Interior. Meeting lasted an hour and a half. Mr. Nixon said he would remain in office during impeachment proceedings.

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