

NYTimes AUG 24 1974
**NIXON'S AIDES GET
ACCESS TO PAPERS**

**Haldeman First Under New
Ruling by White House to
See Files Left Behind**

By **MARJORIE HUNTER**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23—

President Ford's legal counsel agreed today to permit aides to former President Richard M. Nixon to examine papers that they had left behind them at the White House.

Within hours after the decision was announced, H. R. Haldeman, Mr. Nixon's former chief of staff, entered a guarded room in the Executive Office Building, next door to the White House, to look through his files.

Mr. Haldeman, along with five other Nixon associates and aides, is scheduled to go on trial Sept. 30 on charges of participating in a cover-up of the Watergate affair.

The decision to permit access to the files came after attorneys for John D. Ehrlichman, another Watergate defendant, protested earlier this week that he did not have the same access to his papers as he formerly had.

Under a prior policy of the Nixon Administration, aides involved in the Watergate trial were permitted to examine their papers but not copy them or make notes. Even this access, however, was cut off in the last days of the Nixon Presidency.

The reinstatement of this former policy was announced today by J. F. terHorst, press secretary to President Ford. He said that the decision had been made by Philip W. Buchen, the President's legal counsel.

Mr. Buchen said later that his office had cleared the matter with Mr. Nixon, and that he had raised no objections.

Under the reinstated policy, the Watergate defendants will be permitted to examine, but not copy, their papers. They will also not be allowed to make notes, and their attorneys will not be allowed to accompany them.

In explaining why the defendants would not be allowed to make notes, Mr. Buchen said

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that Secret Service agents guarding the files would find it difficult to determine whether a person examining the papers was copying the material word for word or merely making notes.

Data Ordered Held

Mr. Nixon's former attorneys, J. Fred Buzhardt Jr. and James D. St. Clair, issued an opinion last week that White House tape recordings and papers belonged to the former President.

A day later, however, President Ford appointed Mr. Buchen as his legal counsel, and Mr. Buchen ordered that all of the Nixon files and tapes remain in White House custody until legal issues involving the Watergate affair were resolved.

The White House also announced today the appointment of Paul A. Theis, 51 years old, as executive director and administrator of the office that prepares speeches and announcements for the President.

Mr. Theis, a former Washington correspondent for Newsweek magazine, has been public relations director for the National Republican Congressional Committee since 1957.

In supervising the speechwriting staff at the White House, Mr. Theis will have somewhat the same role that David R. Gergen had in the Nixon Administration. Mr. terHorst said that Mr. Gergen was still at the White House.

Mr. terHorst also announced that Betty Ford has asked key members of Mrs. Nixon's staff to remain. Mrs. Lucy Winchester will continue as White House social secretary, and Mrs. Helen McCain Smith will continue as press secretary to Mrs. Ford. Others remaining include Susan Porter, Terry Ivey and Patti Matson.

Has a Busy Day

Meanwhile, President Ford spent another busy day on the job, starting early by greeting a group of Michigan and Colorado members of the 4-H Club in the Rose Garden. He also greeted the Farm Family of the Year, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Flower of Fairbanks, Alaska.

In mid-morning, he met with

Senator Mike Mansfield, the Senate majority leader, to discuss the status of legislation. Mr. terHorst said that Mr. Ford planned to meet regularly with legislative leaders of both parties.

President Ford, along with Secretary of State Kissinger, also conferred for an hour with the Syrian Foreign Minister, Abdel Halim Khaddam. Mr. terHorst said later that the meeting had underscored the importance that the United States attached to Syria's role in peace-keeping efforts in the Middle East.

This afternoon, President Ford met with leaders of 18 organizations representing about half of the nation's citizens who are over 65 years of age.

When the group presented him with a gold magnifying glass, the President laughed and said, "I don't need that yet."

Later, he left the White House for an eye examination at a Navy clinic. This was part of a series of physical check-ups that he is undergoing. Mr. Ford wears glasses for distance, but not for reading.

Aware of Problems

In other developments today, Mr. terHorst said that the President was fully aware that the nation's economic problems were severe, but that he did not want to "act in cowboy fashion" in attacking them.

Asked to explain what he meant by "cowboy fashion," Mr. terHorst said, "Someone who runs down the middle of the street and shoots on both sides without specifying a target."

Mr. terHorst also said that President Ford "is appreciative of a proposal by Gov. William G. Milliken of Michigan that he use the Governor's house on Mackinac Island for a summer vacation. But he said that Mr. Ford had no plans to take a vacation this summer.

The Fords have given no indication that they intend to spend days or weeks away from the White House, as former President Nixon and some of his predecessors did.

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THE FRESH AIR FUND =**