

Jesuits Told McLaughlin To Quit Post

BOSTON, Oct. 11 (AP) — The Rev. John J. McLaughlin, a Jesuit priest and former adviser to Richard M. Nixon, was ordered by his religious superior to quit his government job, according to an official Jesuit newspaper.

The October issue of SJ News, published by the Society of Jesus of New England, quoted "reliable Jesuit sources" as saying McLaughlin received a letter from the Rev. Richard Cleary, the New England provincial ordering him "to resign from the White House."

McLaughlin—whose resignation becomes effective Oct. 15—and Cleary were unavailable for comment on the report.

McLaughlin told the newspaper, however, "I cannot deny that your report is accurate."

"The action was unilateral," he said, involving "Jesuit policy reasons." But then he added that his principal reason for quitting was because he felt the new President should have a new staff.

A rift between McLaughlin and Cleary became public late last spring, when Cleary summoned the Nixon aide back to Boston for "prayer and reflection."

Cleary said then he was "puzzled" as to whether McLaughlin was living up to his vows of poverty and obedience by living in Washington's plush Watergate apartments, where he still lives.