

Nixonbrother, a variant of Big Brother

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Preoccupation with noise and its emotional cost, which prompts this escape from both, have kept me from following the administration's changes as closely as I would have liked, and what it has done outside these changes.

I suppose everyone expected changes, if not before then after the WH said they would be extensive. I think they will be and will have to be. Some ought not be surprising. Of these an immediate example is the reduction in the size of the White House staff. Nixon is the one who increased it. He can cut it back to where it was and have an impressive reduction. I expect he'll cut it more than that because for him the chief purpose of the staff was re-election. With that accomplished he has no need for them and in getting rid of them he makes himself look good and can make it appear that the cuts in domestic-needs appropriations are not singled out. After all, didn't he begin at home? This also gives him a neat and seemingly-clean "out" for getting rid of those who can be connected with WG.

Unless Nix wants the unlikely, a deal with Castro, all the special need for Super-Kraut are about over. Moving Rush from military to State can accomplish the same purposes. It, in fact, makes a tighter military ship, gives it a voice where it had less voice.

We'll get the nicer ones first. Looks better and fixes the attitude, public press and politicians. I think all of them will point the same way, to greater authoritarianism. Dropping the changes against Popkin and letting Berigan out, a clear break with the record of the recent past in both cases, is an effort at "liberalism" that coincides with the appointment of a racist as Secretary of Labor. There are labor hierarchy reactionaries and hawks who are not racists, but those didn't satisfy him.

Consistent with this is the intent to dump Dole, who is as Nixon as Nixon, a bit more subtle and a hell of a lot faster on his feet and with dirtiness. I think it means a downgrading still further of the party-control structure and a concentration of control in hands controlled by Nixon. Or, a different kind of authoritarianism, but authoritarian.

Keeping Rogers at State may not be as significant as the timing of the announcement. They may have expected complaint about moving the military openly into State or there may be a less palatable announcement next. Rogers can be dumped at any time. He is needed now to keep the cookie-pushers content with cooking and pushing cookies.

It is possible to lay the intent to dump Dole alongside the refusal to do the normal, fight for the Congressional seats and draw a nasty conclusion, that he doesn't really care about Congress. This can mean only that he doesn't expect to worry or to have to worry about it, and if the reading is correct, there is no nice interpretation.

Meanwhile, The Old Nixon is at the controls again, and when he can't get his will at the negotiating table, meaning isn't allowed to break his word to get what he'd regard as a better deal after making one, he drops more bombs than ever. The viciousness isn't hidden. It is only that the papers say nothing.

I have noted earlier that all those of whom resignations were said to have been demanded did not have them demanded. I would expect these to be the working types who rose above civil service, those required for the work but on policy level. There have to be such. But why leak a lie? To have it help tell another lie is one possible answer. We may see.

If there is a central theme in this and what hasn't yet been done but might be expected, it is the downgrading of the traditional party structure and the traditional forms of leadership, among the consequences of which could be a reorientation of the major parties and what is more important, making what will be called conservative government seem non-political when it will be authoritarian, not conservative. To make the authoritarianism more likely to be faced with the minimum opposition, from either party machine, from pols, and from the public and the press. Something of this sort was clear once it became clear that the party was not running the campaign and the campaign was oblivious to the Congressional seats of the party, particularly when re-election was so little in doubt and there was no real sweat in putting party people in if only to reduce Congressional opposition. Were he really concerned with his party, he'd have done a job for it with his own time and the millions he had to spare and had in cash.

Incidentally, I think he looks tired. HW