

SQA from Washington

WASHINGTON, Dec 6 - Gerald R. Ford was inaugurated as the 40th Vice President of the United States today with President Richard M. Nixon in attendance. The big question in Washington tonight is: How long will each man retain his current job?

Only one man has the answer to that query and he is entering Bethesda Naval Hospital later this month for his annual check-up. More than one person in this rumor strewn town is betting that during the physical Richard Nixon will be found to have some debilitating illness. Others are guessing that Nixon is debilitated already. It seems clear that although he may maintain the title and accoutrements of his office, Nixon has ceased functioning as President except in the most legalistic sense.

This President always limited his inner circle of advisors to a select few Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Mitchell, Ziegler, Kissinger, Colson, et al. However, this inner circle appears to have constricted to two persons: Presidential Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler and General Alexander M. Haig (USA-Retired).

Item: During the latest Middle East War Nixon delegated authority to Secretary of State Kissinger to handle the crisis which arose on October 25. According to newspaper accounts based on information emanating from Kissinger, after the Secretary of State called the world-wide military alert early on the morning of October 25, 1973, Kissinger notified the President who then ratified the action. Item: Former Colorado Gov. John Love who resigned this week as Director of the President's Energy Policy Office departed the Capitol saying that he had been unable to consult with the President. Publicity shots of Nixon and Love were published, but apparently there was little, if any, substantive policy discussion between the two.

The picture that emerges, then, is one of an isolated President, occupied solely with preserving his freedom from jail, being advised by two persons singularly untutored in American domestic politics. Apparently, Secretary of State Kissinger is running foreign policy; it is not immediately clear whether he is now acting with the President's prior approval or merely informing Nixon after the fact of his actions.

Long knives were unsheathed in the Capitol upon Ford's inauguration. All week everyone was waiting for this event; now it has occurred and the talk of impeachment or resignation has increased appreciably.

Presidential Counselors Bryce Harlow and Melvin Laird have made it known they are leaving soon now that Ford is in office. This symbolizes a withdrawal of Republican support from the President. In an astounding development last May, shortly after he joined the White House staff, Laird lost a power struggle and, noncomitantly, most, if not all, of his influence on an access to Nixon. Ziegler had just issued his famous "inoperative" statement declaring everything he had said in the past about Watergate to be null and void. Laird recommended that Ziegler be replaced. Laird turned around and all of a sudden felt something sharp and pointed between his shoulder blades. Ziegler ended up with an increasingly powerful position on the White House staff. Power is measured in terms of access to the President and time spent with the President. Henry Kissinger was quoted recently as saying, by way of explaining his reluctance to spend time at the state department instead of in the White House, "When I'm not talking to him (Nixon) someone else is." As Secretary of State, Kissinger has less time for hours of rambling conversation with the President.

Haig and Ziegler are at each other's throats. The accounts of the same events given by each man's camp are diametrically opposed. For instance, last week at a White House press briefing Ziegler stated that Presidential Counsel J. Fred Buzhardt had been extremely busy and that perhaps a few mistakes had been made in the handling of the President's legal defense in the matter of the missing White House tapes. This statement was issued while Buzhardt was being cross-examined by Richard Ben-Veniste of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force in Federal Judge John Sirica's courtroom. Buzhardt was trying to explain with a

singular lack of success how an 18 minute segment of a taped conversation between Nixon and former White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman was erased. The next day Ziegler's assistant, Gerald Warren, who was conducting the daily press briefing, was asked about Buzhardt's status on the legal team. At first Warren replied that Buzhardt "still is working" in the office. Later, Warren was handed a note whereupon he apologized and said that Buzhardt was still in charge. Informed opinion suggests that the note came from the President of the local chapter of the West Point Protective Association - Al Haig. Indeed more than one commentator has remarked about the large number of military personnel, either retired or on active duty, occupying critical positions within the White House staff structure.

Rumors are so numerous in Washington that one almost wonders if there is not a rumor factory hidden in a discrete townhouse, which manages to disseminate four or five new rumors every day. The same hot tip will come from two or three independent sources within the course of a single day. If any of these tips should be documented, it would be extremely difficult for Nixon to stay out of jail and in office. Adverse public reaction to the lack of a jail sentence for former Vice-President Spiro Agnew may preclude the same easy treatment for Nixon, should a criminal case against him be developed and proven beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Assume for the moment that Nixon knows he is guilty of a crime and that it is only a matter of time before he is caught. With whom can he bargain his office for his freedom? There is no higher official

within the government. He has not been indicted so there is nothing to which he can plead guilty in exchange for a minimal penalty. Acting Attorney General Robert Bork's legitimacy is being tested in court by Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., because Bork has remained in office longer than thirty days and his name has not been sent to the Senate for confirmation as Attorney General. There is a statute prohibiting such action. There is a constitutional question about Senator William Saxbe, R-Ohio's, eligibility for the office of Attorney General due to a statute which prohibits a member of Congress from holding any office for which the salary was increased during that member's term in Congress. (N.B. the salary for the Attorney General was increased while Saxbe was in the Senate). Furthermore, what does Nixon have to gain by resigning? There appears to be little chance that Nixon could make a pre-resignation deal stick after he loses the prerogatives of the Presidency through a resignation in exchange for immunity from prosecution. Finally, if Ford were to make a deal it would smack of bribery (i.e. Nixon would be offering Ford a \$200,000 annual salary plus perquisites in exchange for no prosecution.)

The bombshells have come too quickly. Since October 6, two months ago today, there has been an Arab-Israeli War, a cessation of hostilities, renewal of combat on a limited scale, an Arab oil boycott of some Western nations, the Dow Jones average has fallen approximately 180 points and then recovered slightly, Ford has been nominated and confirmed, Cox, Richardson, and Ruckelshaus have left office, Nixon has promised to surrender the subpoenaed

tapes, two of the tapes are unavailable, the President has spoken to the nation twice on the energy source shortage, Dwight Chapin has been indicted, Egil Krogh has pled guilty to a criminal indictment, it has been announced that 18 minutes of subpoenaed tape recording has been erased, Nixon has said he is not a crook. At this point, soundings around the country indicate that people are more concerned about the effects of the energy shortage on their daily lives than about Watergate and Nixon. Minor industrial dislocations are already occurring due to a severe shortage of plastic. Merchants are worried about losing business during the Christmas season and on Sundays in the event that all Sunday driving is banned. The fact that Nixon's concentration on escaping the Watergate crimes has led to a neglect of energy contingency planning, which should have begun over a year ago when the first shortages occurred, has not yet dawned on the American people. Nor has the correlation between Nixon's agricultural policies and the price of food been made. When cognition sets in, pressure to impeach the President or force his resignation could mount.

After considering the Rose Mary Woods testimony about how the eighteen minute gap on a subpoenaed tape occurred, one is left with the conclusion that Miss Woods is very stupid, very forgetful, or lying. Her reputation and job are based on the facts that she is both intelligent and possessed of a fine memory. The conclusion is inescapable. Have a few "what ifs."

What if Miss Woods is presented with an indictment for perjury or criminal contempt of court? Will her story change? What if Egil Krogh supports John Dean's sworn testimony that Krogh's orders in the Fielding burglary came from the Oval Office (i.e. personally and directly from the President with no intermediaries)? What if the White House counsel continues to refuse evidentiary material to Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski and Jaworski subpoenas the material? What if any of a number of current investigations of Charles (Bebe) Rebozo's handling of money for the President prove indisputably that Nixon has been engaged in criminal activity? What if it is shown that Bob Haldeman has been running the cover-up by long distance phone from California? What if Charles Rhyne, Miss Woods' lawyer, realizes that he is being played for a fool and decides to blow the lid off the White House? Stay tuned to your local all-news radio station and find out; at times events move so quickly that the hourly newscast contains stale and molding information. In short, one who does not keep one's back to the wall in the White House will quickly feel a sharp pain in the back. Very few people in Washington would be willing to bet that Nixon will be in office on January 19, 1977; a few more, but not many, might be willing to bet that he will be in office on June 6, 1974. There is a Ford in our future.

Letters to The Tech

Racism . . .

To the Editor

It is noteworthy that in recent articles in *The Tech* about admissions policy no mention was made of the fact that the current freshman class contained only 31 Black students out of a class of 893 (3.4% as compared to the previous year's 42 out of 1042, or 4.0%). Furthermore, although much attention was paid to attitude surveys, no mention was made of the opinion of Black or other minority students taken as a separate group. Is it possible that the admissions office was unconcerned with the image of MIT among potential minority students? Much has been made of the increased effort to enroll women students which we commend. We feel, however, that this only further highlights what seems to be a diminishing commitment to minority students.

We are concerned that there is a change in MIT's admissions policy away from the liberalized policies of the past few years towards a more hardened "look at their scores" approach. This is a trend which will, if it continues, diminish the opportunities for minority students as well as for white students from working and lower middle class families. Was this cutback an accident or did it represent a change in policy which will be repeated in coming years? Is this a result of the national attack on educational reform which the Nixon administration has been conducting for the past several years, in particular, its cutbacks in scholarship and loan funds? Are there plans to increase the number of minority students in the next class as a way of moving towards racial balance more quickly? (Which seems to us a reasonable step.) What criteria are being applied and how are they being modified to evaluate students from a significantly different background? Are the availability of tuition support funds and rising costs of higher education involved? Certainly, these are important questions, yet no answers seem to be forthcoming.

It is even more alarming that such cutbacks are occurring in the context of a general motion away from the reform spirit of the past decade, in particular on questions of race and class discrimination. Arthur Jensen, Richard Herrnstein, and William Shockley have all recently made TV appearances or appeared in popular journals calling for the end of compensatory education, a move towards "meritocracy," and the institution of programs to control what they consider

the spread of low IQ populations. All these men base their arguments on standardized tests which have been shown repeatedly to be class and racially biased. Is it alarmist to regard the cutbacks in minority admissions at MIT (and Harvard and other elite schools) as part of the same tendency?

We do not know the answers to all the questions we have raised. We would, therefore, like to invite people to join us in exploring some of these issues in a lecture series planned for IAP. One of these meetings will present Richard Lewontin, one of America's leading population geneticists and Ned Block of the MIT Philosophy Department discussing the IQ hoax. A second will present Steve Chorover, of MIT's Psychology Department, discussing Psycho-technology and Social Control. We have also sent a special invitation to the Admissions Office to attend, as we feel that much of the discussion will be particularly relevant to their use of such measures such as the Scholastic Index, which we feel is subject to the same criticisms as other standardized measures of aptitude and intelligence. We urge anyone interested in working on these problems to join us.

Howard Shrobe
(For the Committee Against Racism)

. . . and Reply.

(The Tech received a copy of the following letter, which is a reply to the letter from the Committee on Racism elsewhere on this page - Editor.)

Dear Mr. Shrobe:

Thank you for your note and the copy of the letter from The Committee Against Racism to the editor of *The Tech*. The questions raised need discussion. I would be happy to be included in any activity that would develop increased understanding of the problems facing minorities as a group or as individuals.

The Admissions Office is committed to increasing the number of minority students at MIT. The article on admissions in *The Tech* was not one prepared by the Admissions Office, and reflects the questions raised by the four reporters who interviewed me. It does not include all the activities of this office.

It would be my hope that you and perhaps other members of the CAR would be able to find time to talk with me this week.

Peter H. Richardson
Director of Admissions

Continuous News Service

The Tech

Since 1881

Vol. XCIII, No. 53 December 11, 1973

David Tenenbaum '74; Chairman
Paul Schindler '74; Editor-in-chief
Norman Sandler '75; Executive Editor
Storm Kauffman '75; Managing Editor
Stephen Shagoury '76; Business Manager

Carol McGuire '75, Steve Wallman '75,
John Hanzel '76, Jim Miller '76;

Night Editors

Michael McNamee '76, Barb Moore '76;

News Editors

Neal Vitale '75; Arts Editor

Sandy Yulke '74, Fred Hutchinson '75;

Sports Editors

Roger Goldstein '74, David Green '75;

Photography Editors

John Kavazanjian; Advertising Manager

Tim Kiorpes; Contributing Editor

Second Class postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts. *The Tech* is published twice a week during the college year, except during college vacations, and once during the first week in August, by *The Tech* Room W20-483, MIT Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Telephone: Area Code 617, 253-1541. United States Mail subscription rates: \$5.00 for one year, \$9.00 for two years.