

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The White House staff organization announced in today's briefing has been evolving since August 9. The working style of this President is reflected in this arrangement. It implements his concept of leadership and management of the Executive Branch, and conforms to the way President Ford operates.

The President designed the organization with several important objectives in mind:

- 1) To provide the Cabinet Officers, Agency Heads, Members of Congress and Senior Staff members with access to the President.
- 2) To limit the White House staff function to those that must necessarily be performed within the White House. The Cabinet and Agency heads will be relied upon to perform all appropriate functions best performed by their organizations.
- 3) To achieve a clearly defined White House organization in which staff responsibilities and functions are specifically assigned.
- 4) To assure high ethical standards and behavior by his staff.
- 5) To see that the White House is an effective working part of the total governmental process and not unduly separated.

To accomplish these objectives, the President today is making several announcements concerning the organizational structure and procedures for the White House staff and those staff bodies in the Executive Office of the President:

First, there are four Cabinet rank advisors who will be available to the President on the full range of policy issues. Each will also have staff responsibilities.

Second, nine key staff officers will report directly to the President. They are:

An Assistant to the President for Management and Budget, and Director of OMB;

An Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs, and Executive Director of the Economic Policy Board, L. William Seidman;

An Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs, and Executive Director of the Domestic Council;

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An Assistant to the President dealing with national security affairs, Henry A. Kissinger;

An Assistant to the President heading the White House Operations Office and with responsibility for coordination of White House staff operations, Donald Rumsfeld;

A Counsellor to the President principally responsible for congressional relations and public liaison, John O. Marsh, Jr.;

The Press Secretary to the President, Ronald H. Nessen;

A Counsellor to the President principally responsible for the Editorial Office and political affairs, Robert T. Hartmann; and

The legal Counsel to the President, Philip W. Buchen.

Third, other staff members will, of course, also work directly with the President.

These officers include the Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, Max L. Friedersdorf; the Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, William J. Baroody, Jr.; as well as the Special Assistant to the President for Minority Affairs, the Special Assistant to the President for Human Resources, the Special Assistant to the President for Hispanic Affairs, the Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, and the Special Assistant to the President for Women among others.

Fourth, key staff members will have a deputy authorized to act for him. It is hoped that this will allow the work at the White House to go forward even though one or more senior officials may be away from their office. Thus, no one individual will be "indispensable" and this approach should help to alleviate the excessively long hours which can prevent White House staff members from leading reasonably balanced lives.

Fifth, titles of the White House staff positions have been adjusted so that they will more clearly identify the function performed by that position.

Sixth, the size of the White House Office is being reduced by approximately ten percent.

Seventh, support services to the White House staff will be reduced as appropriate to reflect the staff size and responsibilities.

Eighth, the President's schedule is being arranged to provide broad access to him by Cabinet members, agency heads, members of the House and Senate and the public on matters in which he is personally involved.

Ninth, the number of Presidential commissions issued will be limited to staff members heading key offices or key functions.

These arrangements have been decided upon with the aim of facilitating an orderly Presidential decision making process while assuring the President of multiple sources of information. Of course, the White House organization will continue to evolve.