

State of Affairs

Henry Brandon

Three in Bloom

WASHINGTON. "A HUNDRED blossoms are blooming in the Nixon Administration," a White House aide said to me the other day, "but only three are in full bloom." They are the Attorney General John Mitchell, the President's National Security Adviser, Dr. Henry Kissinger, and his legislative coordinator, John D. Ehrlichman.

Mr. Mitchell enjoys a kind of seniority among them all. He managed the successful election campaign; he has an iron will and strong convictions. Speaking to small, intimate audiences, he used to define his relationship with candidate Nixon as that of a senior partner of the same firm, making as much money as Nixon did. There was equality, and Mitchell implied that it was he who set the tone.

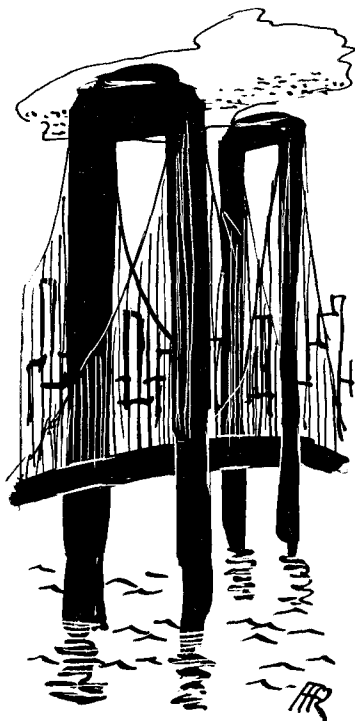
Now that Mitchell serves the President as a member of the Cabinet, he, of course, is not saying this anymore. But those who have an opportunity to observe the two at close quarters say that not much has changed. Mitchell is the President's most intimate confidant, almost, but not quite, to the degree Robert Kennedy was to his brother Jack. In other words, he is much more than Attorney General. He has wide authority; he is the eyes and ears of the President within the Administration. He is also determined

that the President live up to the promises he made in the campaign regarding "law and order," and he is convinced that the Johnson Administration's approach—putting the greatest emphasis on dealing with the causes and not enough on using repression—needs to be reversed. He is convinced that the President's political future rests on hewing to a conservative line.

Dr. Kissinger, forty-six, is not so much an intimate confidant as he is the President's oracle in foreign policy. He is a man with what the Germans call *Weltanschauung*, a philosophical and conceptual approach. His coming from Harvard and being a professor means to many that he is a liberal—but in fact he has a cautious, conservative outlook reminiscent of an enlightened British Tory. His thrust of mind, his depth of scholarship, his tidy thinking, and his ability to evaluate the effect of every major move on the long-range future no doubt have profoundly impressed the President. So has his industry and dedication, for he is one of those Presidential servants whose job has become his life.

He looks skeptically not only at the world but at himself, even if many who see him exert his power in the White House sometimes have difficulty in discerning the latter. There is, of course, always something immensely comforting for a man like Mr. Nixon, who relies mainly on his instincts and his own experience, to have an expert at his elbow who, in contrast, relies on his intellect, his studies of diplomacy and its interaction with military strategy. Nixon has, in fact, come to trust Kissinger's judgment to such an extent that he seeks his advice on many problems outside the scope of foreign policy.

With too many novices at the top of the State Department, Dr. Kissinger, backed by a small staff, continues to hold the initiative in making foreign policy, and so, at least for the time being, the State Department is more his diplomatic instrument than an independent force. This does not mean that William Rogers, the Secretary of State and an old counselor of Mr. Nixon, cannot exert his power with the President whenever he chooses. Their relations are easy; Mr. Rogers is not worried about them, but as an executive he seems detached from the operations of the State Department and husbands his influence with the Presi-



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dent carefully, cautiously, and for occasions that will matter to him. Henry Kissinger also has the enormous advantage of always being available and close by, of having his own answers up his own sleeve.

Many inside the Administration believe that Dr. Kissinger's influence will decline as the State Department marshals its powers, especially if the present approach to the Vietnam negotiations, for which Dr. Kissinger is given the main responsibility, proves to be misconceived. Nevertheless, today he is probably the most indispensable among Mr. Nixon's men.

John Ehrlichman is a handsome, breezy, fast-moving organization man who is trying to be the Kissinger on the domestic side, except that he does not have at his disposal anything akin to the National Security Council through which Kissinger coordinates foreign policy. It is not easy to communicate with all the departments Ehrlichman must keep in touch with, put pressure on to develop policies, and then coordinate them with others. On the contrary, it is a cumbersome, exasperating task that needs both toughness and subtlety.

The President has great confidence in Ehrlichman's sharp mind, organizational talents, and political instincts. But for a man who wields this kind of influence there is still very little known about this forty-four-year-old lawyer from Seattle. He is keeping out of the limelight; he is a difficult man to get answers from and, as a consequence, very little is known about his political views. He is said to be a conservative but not without flexibility, one of those pragmatists who knows how to zigzag on one and the same road, but not a man of ideas or vision.

The rash of criticism in the press and in Congress taking the President to task for not exerting enough leadership and being slow in coming to grips with domestic problems has reportedly made an impression in the White House; but having lost a good deal of time earlier, the President finds it difficult—now that his staff is slowly learning to walk the political tightropes—to churn out much legislation within a short time without overtaxing his already strained relations with the Congress.

The test for those who have counseled him to lean toward moderate conservatism and to take his time with new legislation will come in the midterm Congressional elections next year. But the ultimate test for the men the President relies on most will be—some close to him believe—whether they can develop programs that will hold out for him the promise of a place in history.

Trade Winds

Jerome Beatty, Jr.

According to Louis D'Armand this really happened to him in a general store in a remote New England village. Among a clutter of garden tools he found a hand cultivator and asked the proprietor the price.

"Not for sale," the man said.

"You mean I can't buy one?"

"Nope."

"Then why is it on display?"

"It's the last one we have," the storekeeper replied angrily. "If I sell it, what will I show the next customer who wants one?"

As a child Edgar Cayce slept in a hypnotic state with his head upon his schoolbooks. The contents of the books were absorbed by a form of photographic memorizing. Unfortunately, the system failed after the seventh grade and that was as far as the boy went in school. By that time he was chatting with dead relatives and having other visions. At the age of twenty-one, Cayce found that he could diagnose people's ailments long distance. He would go into a trance, and having been supplied with the name

and address of a patient, he would tune in on him and tell what was wrong.

The famous clairvoyant died in 1945, after forty-three years of readings on thousands of patients. Many books have been written about him, of which the latest is *Edgar Cayce on Diet and Health* (Hawthorn), taken from stenographic records of his telepathic statements. There are recipes and advice on food and health. On December 2, 1937, Cayce came into possession of some valuable information when an Egyptian mummy appeared in a dream and translated some ancient directions for the preparation of Mummy Food. All you need are equal portions of Assyrian dates and figs. Grind them and add half a handful of corn meal or crushed wheat. Cook over low heat. Eat that with a little milk and you'll be ready for the sarcophagus.

In one of his trances Edgar Cayce admonished a faraway patient, "Oysters should never be taken with whiskey, as this produces a chemical reaction that is bad for most stomachs." Cayce wasn't against alcohol,

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