President-Elect Announces Plan To Cut Size Of White House Staff

By MERRIMAN SMITH
UPI White House Reporter

PALM BEACH, Fla. (UPI) — A plan to cut the White House staff and make the chief executive more of an operating boss of his entire administration neared completion today at the headquarters of President-elect Kennedy.

His chief adviser in revamping the personnel structure of the White House was Clark M. Clifford, a Washington attorney who has represented Kennedy in discussions with the Eisenhower administration on transition from Republican to Democratic control.

A Senate subcommittee staff report has declared that the president must be the sole maker of national policy and not fall back on a "super secretary," such as suggested by New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and others.

Reflecting Kennedy's thinking on the complicated subject of selecting and preparing nearly 2,000 persons for top jobs in the federal establishment, Clifford made it plain that the president-elect intends to clean house among policy-level officials.

Seeks Full Control

"Senator Kennedy intends to bring his own men in, in policy-making jobs," Clifford told reporters here. "He intends to obtain complete and full control of the executive branch through the appointment of those policy positions. Now, as far as other personnel are concerned who are farther down the line, I have no doubt that many of them who are technically expert will be retained."

According to Clifford, Kennedy intends to abolish the powerful job of "the assistant to the president," first occupied under President Eisenhower by Sherman Adams and now the position of Maj. Gen. Wilton B. Persons, Clifford's opposite number in the transition negotiations.

Clifford said Kennedy "did not contemplate setting up a man who would act between him and his staff as "the assistant" has functioned under Eisenhower. Furthermore, Clifford said, the overall White House staff under Kennedy "will be nowhere near as large as it is under the present administration."

Clifford, a Washington attorney who served in the White House as special counsel to President Truman, said the U. S. Manual showed the personal working staff of Eisenhower, as distinguished from secretarial and clerical help, numbered 51 jobs. He pointed out that the comparable figure under Truman was 15.

Confer At Length

Clifford spent most of Monday in conference with Kennedy and held a news conference in the afternoon. From his meeting with reporters came these other points of news:

— Clifford, himself, has no intention of taking a job in the new administration, but plans to return to his law practice in the nation's capital after completion of what he called "this interim task."

— He hoped Kennedy would name his budget director by Dec. 1, and that delay thus far in making this appointment reflected the president-elect's "desire to get the best possible man for the task."

— Clifford did not anticipate any material reduction in the size of the executive offices of the president as distinguished from the White House staff. The executive offices include the Budget Bureau, the Council of Economic Advisers, National Security Council, Central Intelligence Agency, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, and some lesser commissions.

Government Okays Grant

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Maurine B. Neuberger, D-Ore., today said the federal government has approved a grant to an Oregon hospital and a loan to an Oregon telephone company.

The Health, Education and Welfare Department approved a grant of $128,375 to Good Shepherd Hospital of Hermiston to help construction of a $266,750 addition to a nursing home, she said.

The Sunnyside Telephone Co. received a loan of $206,000, she said, to be used for improvements in its system, including the advent of dial service for 230 new subscribers. The firm operates in Clackamas and Yamhill counties.

Police Seek Missing Man

ROSEBURG (AP) — A 64-year-old man has been missing since the weekend and his car has been found in the North Umpqua River east of here.

Fear grew today that Riley J. Norris, a contractor's employe in the Canton Creek area, drowned as his car plunged over a bank and into the river Saturday night.

A forest ranger reported seeing car lights in the river and a Sunday morning search disclosed the partly submerged car, its windshield broken, its right hand door partly open and no one in it.

It was assumed then that the driver had gotten out. However, Norris' son, Kenneth, of Medford, said his father was missing and attempts to locate him had failed.

Sheriff Ira Byrd said no organized search would be made but a general lookout would be maintained along the river.

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