

# President Kennedy Downgrades Role Of Cabinet; Some Members Unhappy

By LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In real life, as well as in movies and novels, cabinet meetings traditionally have played a key role in government policy making.

George Washington established the precedent of calling together the heads of all federal departments to discuss weighty problems of state. And every subsequent president up to and including Dwight D. Eisenhower has at least gone through the motions of consulting his cabinet on major decisions.

Eisenhower attached great importance to cabinet meetings, and held them on a regular weekly schedule.

President Kennedy, however, has sharply downgraded the cabinet meeting as an instrument of executive decision-making. He prefers to consult cabinet members individually or in small groups as specific problems arise.

Since Kennedy took office in January, 1961, the full cabinet has met just 30 times — which averages out to less than once a month. Sometimes, Kennedy lets two months or longer go by without calling a cabinet meeting. This summer, for example, he presided at a cabinet meeting July 3. There have been none since.

How do cabinet members like the new approach? Does it give them as much access to the President as they need?

Hodges Wants More

One cabinet member — Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges — is willing to say out loud that he would like more frequent cabinet meetings.

"I would have to say that Mr. Kennedy does not hold enough cabinet meetings with all of the cabinet members present at one time," Hodges said.

"Mr. Kennedy has got a very bright mind, and he likes to search the other man's mind. He prefers to do it individually, rather than at formal meetings. But I think you need a mixture of both."

Other cabinet members, however, said they are happy with things as they are. They feel they have adequate access to the President and that decisions are made more quickly and efficiently. They are, frankly, glad they don't have to spend several hours of precious working time each week sitting around a cabinet table, dealing with long agendas which may have little or no direct interest for their departments.

Edward Day, who resigned as postmaster general Aug. 9, repudiated rumors that he quit partly because he was dissatisfied with the infrequency of cabinet meetings and the fact that some members — such as himself — rarely got to talk with the President about large affairs of state.

Says President Available

Day told UPI reporter Jack Vandenberg that he was always able to reach the President whenever he had a specific problem to discuss. And he said he shared the view that problems affecting only one department should be discussed individually rather than aired before the whole cabinet.

Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon, who has had the unique experience of serving in the cabinet under both Eisenhower and Kennedy, is understandably wary of individual comparisons. But sources close to him say he shares Kennedy's basic attitude about cabinet meetings: Namely, that there are some circumstances in which they are useful, but on most problems, you can move a lot faster with smaller groups and less formal procedures.

Dillon is also represented as being entirely satisfied with his access to the President. This is hardly surprising, since he is one of the four cabinet officers most frequently consulted by Kennedy.

Inner Circle

The other members of this inner circle are Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, the President's brother and closest adviser; Secretary of State Dean Rusk; and Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara. McNamara, an experienced executive who was president of Ford Motor Co., told UPI Pentagon reporter Charles W. Coady that in his considered opinion, "the cabinet meets frequently enough." He added that "without question," he has adequate access to the President.

Similar statements were made by Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall, Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz, Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman, and Anthony J. Celebrezze, secretary of

Health, Education and Welfare.

One reason why cabinet meetings are not much missed was suggested by the attorney general. He said cabinet members actually get together fairly frequently, at informal luncheons. It has become a Kennedy custom for cabinet members to take turns playing host to their colleagues. Sometimes all the cabinet is invited, but often the luncheon is for three or four men who have a mutual problem. They may bring aides along so that the discussion can get right down to brass tacks.

Health, Education and Welfare. One reason why cabinet meetings are not much missed was suggested by the attorney general. He said cabinet members actually get together fairly frequently, at informal luncheons. It has become a Kennedy custom for cabinet members to take turns playing host to their colleagues. Sometimes all the cabinet is invited, but often the luncheon is for three or four men who have a mutual problem. They may bring aides along so that the discussion can get right down to brass tacks.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.

Health, Education and Welfare.