

Jan 25

H—

Absent being granted an audience, much less regularly scheduled meetings, you will apparently become my messenger boy if anything is going to get attention, (unless I can enlist Colson to take my case—)

The most pressing issue for decision relates to confirmation of the OMB Director and other Assistants. Attached is a paper on it—

I'll take that back — The most pressing issue is how the President proposes to deal with his staff — if at all.

For example, should the Sunday speech draft meet with

## MEMORANDUM

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his approval it would be the miracle of the age - It is a pure shot in the dark - He has never discussed whether to give the talk with anyone involved in its preparation, much less the premise or content of the talk - In fact, I had Price's fellows do it on speculation, beginning some 5 days ago, assuming that at some early time there would be a meeting of the minds. I have had a request in to talk about it ever since.

This morning's episode with Colson caps it -

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It comes down to this: I don't mind taking responsibility, moving on my own, and I don't need periodic audiences to make me feel good. But when I feel I need guidance from the "one of two things" should happen — either I should be given time to get it — regardless of what else is going on and regardless of whether the subject is pleasant or unpleasant, or, if that isn't a possibility, that I go ahead in the exercise of my own judgment, without end runs —

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A large part of my difficulty at the moment is a sincere conviction that, to the extent the President has <sup>not</sup> experienced secondary enthusiasm following his big vote, it is as a result of Colson's bad advice. I think his judgment is not just bad. In combination with Richard Nixon's proclivities it could be fatal.

I have mistakenly assumed that Colson's effect would wane between November and March. It obviously has not. I decided to give my time rather than speak plainly to the President about him. I am sure now that I should have done so.

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Sometime I would like someone to explain to me what it is that the New Majority is going to do for the  $\pi$  in the coming years, which justifies the inordinate and exclusive romancing we have given it - I believe it has been at great cost and I just don't see the eventual pay-out.

Sometime I would like someone to explain how things are going to work around here in the coming year - I suspect I have made some erroneous assumptions.

As you could no doubt detect, I have increasingly

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Grown concerned in recent days.  
I know This has been a hectic  
Time with The Innaugural, The  
Peace, The funeral, etc. But  
There will always be heavy  
demands on all of us. The  
Challenge is to make it work  
especially during those times - I  
either have sufficient judgment  
to take these factors into  
account or I don't - If not,  
I shouldn't be here - If I do  
then my requests should be  
honored - At the very least  
I am entitled to an explanation.  
As an irreducible minimum  
I am entitled not to be  
"endronned" -

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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A complainer is entitled to have his motives questioned - It's hard to do from here. But I think I am disturbed because I see some things going badly wrong, some poor work being done, some good people, useful and loyal people, being mistreated needlessly and I find much truth in the Noyes letter. Given the right conditions, I can contribute to the correction of some of these problems, I think -

But there is something rancid about the way things are going just now - and I care enough to mention it.

Q