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# Who's "Bundy" Now?

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By Douglas Kiker  
Of The Herald Tribune Staff  
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Now that McGeorge Bundy has resigned as the White House adviser on foreign affairs, will President Johnston eventually find it necessary to bring in some one of equal talent to replace him?

The President made it clear last week that, although he hasn't quite decided what his final answer to that will be, his basic impulse is to say, "I'd rather do it myself."

After Mr. Bundy's resignation was announced last Wednesday, White House press secretary Bill Moyers, obviously responding to specific Presidential instructions, had this to say:

"I am sure that there will be increasing contact between the President and members of the Administration involved principally in foreign affairs . . . he will meet with increasing frequency and di-

rectly with the principals in the department . . ."

The President, Mr. Moyers went on to say, "has almost three months, really, in which to decide what to do about the position and any successor." There is little doubt that Mr. Johnson will take all that time and probably more to make up his mind. Even if he does decide to fill the post, there remains the problem of finding the right man.

There is, about all of this, strong evidence that Mr. Johnson believes that the conduct of foreign policy properly is the business of the State Department; that a President already has his foreign policy adviser at hand in the person of his Secretary of State, and that John F. Kennedy unnecessarily tangled the lines of authority when he set Mr. Bundy up in

business in the White House basement five years ago.

But the arguments given in reply to this are equally powerful:

¶State Dept. bureaucracy prevents it from being an effective agent of nuclear-age diplomacy.

¶The formulation and execution of the foreign policies of the U. S. are no longer the exclusive concern of the State Department. Rather, it is a meandering thing in which the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Agriculture Department and other Federal shops all have roles and interests. These must be coordinated and it can only be done at the White House.

¶In an age of jets and lightning communications, when this morning's distant rumble results in this afternoon's United Nations debate,

U. S. response must come quickly and the State Department moves at too measured a pace.

¶Most important of all, it is essential that a President have his own man, whose loyalty is to him alone, who does not have the interests of a huge department to consider, who is always at hand.

McGeorge Bundy served President Kennedy. Since the assassination, he has served the President of the United States, not Lyndon Johnson and this has made some difference.

The two were not close when Mr. Johnson entered the White House, and at first Mr. Bundy thought of leaving. But he didn't, and there were those who thought it was because Mr. Johnson had promised him an eventual golden reward.

At any event, Mr. Bundy

stayed, for two years, a powerful, dignified figure, a man friendly enough but somewhat

remote from the group of young Texans who concurrently worshipped and feared their boss, a part of the White House staff, but never a member of the LBJ team.