

# Nixon's new aides are worse than those ousted in scandal

The fast-breaking Watergate scandal has shaken the government to its foundations and exposed capitalist politicians for their inherent corruption. Even more dangerous than Nixon's departed aides and administrators, however, are his replacements for the criminals who have been caught.

The disclosures have brought the government to a point of crisis. If documentation is obtained that links Nixon directly to any of the 1984-style repression already revealed in the case, there could well be impeachment proceedings against the government, or even mass uprisings.

The blows against the government have been severe. Presidential chief of staff H.R. Haldeman quit April 30, Chief White House domestic advisor John D. Ehrlichman quit April 30, Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray resigned April 27, Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst resigned April 30. Former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans have been indicted by a grand jury in New York. Both headed up Nixon's re-election campaign last year. All of those criminals have been essential to Nixon in past years. A number of key, but relatively minor officials and aides also have resigned or have been indicted.

In order to meet the crisis, Richard Nixon has brought the military into the government, naming Gen. Alexander Haigh as Presidential Chief of Staff.

In addition he has put Secretary of Defense Elliot Richardson in charge of the Justice Department.

He has moved CIA director James Schlesinger over to become the new Secretary of Defense, and William E. Colby, head of the government's assassination squad in Southeast Asia (the Phoenix Program) is the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

A typical example of the new

kinds of criminals Nixon is bringing into the government is Colby--a pig who has spent most of his life in the Directorate of Plans, known in CIA slang as "The Department of Dirty Tricks."

The centerpiece of Colby's life has been Vietnam, where he arrived in 1959 as "first secretary"--so described by a CIA spokesperson--of the American embassy.

Actually, it was well known in Saigon in those days that Colby was the CIA's station chief in South Vietnam, and it was during this period that his long association with the war against the Indochinese peoples was first forged.

In 1962 he became the chief of the Far East Division of the CIA's Directorate of Plans in Washington. The agency's role in the Indochinese war was at its height at the time, several years before the big U.S. military buildup.

The CIA organized an army of Meo mercenaries to battle the Pathet Lao in Laos. And in Vietnam, the beginnings of what was to be called the "pacification" program were being set into motion. Colby was the head of the "pacification" program, or, more accurately, the Phoenix program.

The Phoenix program--the code name assigned by the CIA--was designed to torture for information, then kill suspected National Liberation Front members. The program had little effect on the NLF, but did succeed in killing large numbers of people unconnected with either Saigon or the NLF, and in killing off large numbers of Thieu's non-communist opposition. The same guy who headed this program is now heading the CIA under Nixon's "new" government.

(For more detailed information on the Phoenix program, check out the latest issue of Counter-Spy, the bulletin of The Committee for Action/