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# Bundy of the White

This Presidential aide, an ex-Republican, is back in the Kennedy Administration, and may be de

By Milton Mackaye

**T**he American electorate took the news that McGeorge Bundy was joining the Kennedy Administration without an accelerated heart-beat. But in the academic community, where Bundy occupied a position of distinction, there was a genteel churning of excitement. Why—and it was a good question—would Harvard's Dean of Arts and Sciences abandon the security and serenity of Cambridge for the stormy weather of national affairs?

He was widely known as one of the most successful campus administrators in the country. He had been offered, and had refused, the presidency of half a dozen major colleges and universities. So far as his future was concerned, it was hardly a vocational handicap that his great-uncle, A. Lawrence Lowell, had served as Harvard's president for almost a quarter century.

Yet, when President Kennedy offered him a public post, Bundy accepted with what some people thought was surprising alacrity. Proper Bostonians perhaps would not have looked askance if the appointment had had cabinet status. But to a few there seemed to be a loss of dignity in Harvard's No. 2 executive taking a job as a staff officer at the White House.

This attitude was nothing new. Soon after President Eisenhower recruited Robert Cutler, president of the Old Colony Trust Company, for somewhat similar duties, two ancient gentlemen were reading their newspapers in Boston's ancient Somerset Club. One, so the story goes, raised his head and said, "I see Bobbie Cutler is in Washington making quite a reputation." The other didn't even look up. "Purely national," he said.

People who know Mac Bundy intimately were not surprised at his decision. To them the pattern of his life from boyhood on—as an undergraduate at Yale,

humiliating failure of the Army-supported invasion of Cuba.

Cambridge was never like that. Bundy seems to be bearing up. No tower theoretician, he has a tough and has headed it during recent years when the going has been rock hard. According to his closest associates, he did think the job would be easy. It was precisely because it was so easy ahead for the United States that he accepted without quibbling his present White House post.

Bundy's job is highly important. Of course, the President's chief adviser on foreign affairs. But his office in the west wing of the White House also serves as a vital communications center. Dispatches and cables will warrant the President's attention to Bundy's office; dispatches on relations—a daily torrent of them there too. It is Bundy's task to keep properly informed, a job that requires judgment and a knowledge of the peculiarities and habits of work. In sense Bundy is a custodian of the President's time, which must be rationed. Security issues which are tied later stay on Bundy's desk.

Early in his administration, Kennedy made sweeping changes in White House machinery. Certain committees, in which no one of authority, were abolished. A great that authority for coordinating actions and following through through Bundy's hands—as the President's personal agent. He supervises staff specialists whose assignments are in daily touch with the agencies concerned with the priority. Like Bundy, they are coordinators; they are also

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