President Nixon's Cabinet





Letter from the Head Chair

Hello, delegates!

My name is Alexis Roberts, and as your Head Chair, I am honored to welcome you to the Nixon Watergate Crisis. I am currently a second year at UC Davis, and I am studying International Relations with an emphasis in public and environmental health as well as International Agricultural Development. I have been a member of Model United Nations since my first year at UC Davis, and this will be my first time head chairing. Though new to Model United Nations, I have grown extremely passionate about not only the thought-provoking, \historical issues that are discussed during committee sessions but about the debate that is developed as well. For this reason, I hope you enjoy the Nixon Watergate scandal, an extremely controversial and politically significant event.

I look forward to working with all of you. If you have any questions, you may contact me through my email at dmunc.nixon@davismun.org.

Best,

Alexis Roberts Head Chair, NWC, DMUNC XV dmunc.nixon@davismun.org



Letter from the Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

My name is Jakob Hofso, and I am pleased to be the Crisis Director for this committee. I am a third-year at UC Davis and an Economics major. I have been involved with Model United Nations at Davis since my second year. DMUNC 2017 will be my fourth time staffing a crisis committee, and the first such committee that deals with United States politics. Model UN conferences are always challenging, enjoyable, and educational, and I look forward to continuing that tradition. I am particularly excited to be directing a committee that deals with one of the most shocking and tumultuous scandals in American political history. I am pleased to welcome you to the committee, and I look forward to seeing how you rewrite history.

Sincerely,

Jakob Hofso Crisis Director, NWC, DMUNC XV jehofso@ucdavis.edu



About the Committee

Introduction

The year is 1973, and Richard Nixon has just begun his second term. His first term was a resounding success, and he won re-election in a landslide. Forty-nine of the fifty states voted for Nixon, as did 61% of voters. However, the dark side of the Nixon administration was beginning to emerge. Economic conditions were mediocre, the Vietnam War not fully ended, and the Cold War continued to dominate international politics. In the midst of this, the administration was implicated in a break-in at the Democratic National Committee's headquarters.

As President Nixon's cabinet members and advisors, it is your responsibility to guide the president through these turbulent times. You must protect the administration's reputation from scandal while also enacting policy. But beware: the Nixon administration is full of spies, secrets, and double-crossing.

Historical Background

Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, began his presidency on January 20th, 1969. Prior to his Presidency, he served as a U.S. Representative and Senator from California and as the 36th Vice President of the United States from 1953 to 1961 under the presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower. In 1960, then-Vice President Nixon ran against John F. Kennedy for the Presidency, losing by a narrow margin 113,000 votes. In the 1968 election, Nixon faced Democratic Vice President Hubert Humphrey and won, becoming the new President.

The most important foreign policy issue of the campaign was the Vietnam War, the highly controversial, nearly 20-year campaign against the communist forces of North Vietnam.



The war started in 1955 but did not escalate until the early 1960s. When President Lyndon Johnson took over after the assassination of President Kennedy, he increased American involvement in the war, requiring far more manpower and military equipment. On 24 November 1963, he said, "the battle against communism ... must be joined ... with strength and determination" (Karnow). By the time Nixon came into the presidency, 31,000 American lives had already been lost, increasing the pressure on him to end the conflict.

Nixon's first year saw several significant events, including the moon landing, the Vietnam War demonstrations, the resignation of Charles de Gaulle, and the continuing unease of the Cold War. The "Nixon Doctrine," otherwise known as the "Guam Doctrine" was established as his foreign policy agenda. Nixon stated that the US would aim to "assist in the defense and developments of allies and friends," but would not "undertake all the defense of the free nations of the world." Through this, Nixon would form closer friendships with countries such as China and continue the process of Vietnamization. Vietnamization was formed to "expand, equip, and train South Vietnam's forces and assign to them an ever-increasing combat role, at the same time steadily reducing the number of U.S. combat troops" (Laird). When Nixon became President in 1969, he aimed to withdraw 265,500 American Forces from Vietnam, and create a larger ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) instead.

Nixon's foreign policy agenda supported the concept that both Ford and Nixon termed "détente," which was meant to ease the tensions between the East and West after the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1970, Nixon improved US-China relations by reducing trade restrictions against China. In Latin America, where communism was also a looming threat, President Nixon authorized the CIA to intervene in the Chilean government with the purpose of removing leftist President Allende from leadership. Nixon restricted Chile's access to international economic



assistance, discouraged private investment, increased aid to the Chilean military and funneled covert payments to Allende opposition groups (Richard Nixon Biography). These actions would give Pinochet dictatorship over Chile.

Domestic Policies

While Nixon was best known for his foreign policies, he did not ignore domestic matters. Though he was a Republican, many of his policies embraced centrist and liberal policies. One example of Nixon's progressive policies was the establishment of the New Federalism program. This program created biracial committees to coordinate and implement school desegregation. By the end of 1970, only about 18 percent of black children in the South were attending segregated schools, decreased from 70 percent in 1968 (bibliography). In 1970 Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and signed the Clean Air Act. Nixon also increased the number of rehabilitation facilities, seeing as sending drug users to jail was extremely inefficient. During the 1960's, several civil rights movements occurred, Nixon addressed these issues by implementing the Philadelphia Plan, the first significant affirmative action plan.

Pentagon Papers

The Pentagon Papers, also known as "Report of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Vietnam Task Force" were established at the request of Robert McNamara. In 1967, many aspects of the Vietnam War were being kept secret. Daniel Ellsberg, an analyst, employed by the military, published the papers. 3,000 pages of narrative along with 4,000 pages of supporting documents were released to the *New York Times*. Ellsberg, an opponent of the war, persuaded Senators to release the papers on the Senate floor (Sanford). Their publication was deeply



embarrassing to previous administrations. They revealed, among other things, "the degree of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, from Truman's decision to give military aid to France during its struggle against the Communist-led Vietminh, to Lyndon Johnson's plan to escalate the war in Vietnam as early as 1964, even as he claimed the opposite during that year's presidential election (History.com)." The release of the Pentagon Papers helped decrease support for the Vietnam War. Public cynicism towards the White House would create a tone of suspicion that was not recognized before the release of the Pentagon Papers. This made the general public question the President's authority and character overall (Swaine).

Nixon's Visit to the Kremlin, Moscow Summit 1972

On May 26, 1972, Nixon and Brezhnev signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT), a program that would hopefully contain the arms race. "The two treaties signed that day were the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, or ABM, and the Interim Agreement on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms" (Murad). Through this, the treaty limited the USSR and US to 200 antiballistic missiles each (History.com).

Watergate Break-In

Within the first four months of Nixon's first term, he had aroused suspicion from White House staff and journalists. Nixon was secretive and paranoid and had installed recording devices in the White House to record conversations. Not even his closest associates—Henry Kissinger, Alexander Butterfield, and John Ehrlichman— were told about the hidden tapes. Nixon was well known for keeping matters to himself, even when he should have involved his staff. During his 1972 campaign, the country was divided in light of the ongoing events in



Vietnam. Nixon was willing to go to questionable and downright illegal lengths to win the presidency.

On June 17th, 1972, five men were arrested for breaking into headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. The police did not immediately suspect political involvement, but officials would later learn that the men involved in the burglary were connected to the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, which was coordinating Nixon's campaign. The burglars had been told to wiretap the DNC in order to collect sensitive information and improve Nixon's chances of winning re-election. The burglars were paid in cash that was traced back to the Committee for the Re-Election of the President. The five burglars were: James W. McCord, a security coordinator for the Republican National Committee and the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, and a former FBI and CIA agent (Woodward, Bernstein); Virgilio Gonzalez, a locksmith from Miami; Frank Sturgis, a former soldier who worked with anti-Castro forces; Eugenio Martinez, who also had ties with the anti-Castro movement, and Bernard L. Barker, a former FBI operative. G. Gordon Liddy, a former FBI agent, and E. Howard Hunt, a former CIA operative, organized the Watergate breakin. Hunt was also involved in the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, an operation aimed at gaining information on Ellsberg and damaging his credibility.

The Nixon Investigation

As news of the Watergate break-in unfolded, Nixon's involvement in the cover-up came to light. In February of 1973, the Senate convened the Select Committee on Presidential Activities to investigate Nixon. On July 18th, 1973, Nixon reportedly ordered the White House tapping to be disconnected, inciting suspicion. When Archibald Cox, the Senate special



prosecutor, demanded the tapes, Nixon refused. Nixon demanded that Cox be fired, triggering mass resignations in the Justice Department in an event known as the Saturday Night Massacre. Congress and the public viewed this as a gross abuse of Presidential power, inciting the impeachment of President Nixon. On November 17th, Nixon gave a famous press conference in which he denied abusing his power, uttering the immortal line, "I am not a crook." (The Washington Post)

The Resignation of Richard Nixon

On July 24th, 1974, the Supreme Court ruled 8-0 that Nixon was required to release the White House tapes, denying his claim of executive privilege. Shortly after, the House Judiciary Committee passes the first of three articles of impeachment, charging the President with obstruction of justice. As a result of these charges, Nixon resigned, the first U.S. President to do so. He declared that to leave office before the end of his term "is abhorrent to every instinct in my body...but as President, I must put the interests of America first." As a result, Gerald Ford, his Vice President, became the 38th President of the United States. Soon after, Ford pardoned Nixon for any crimes.

Questions to Consider

- 1. What effect did Watergate have on the execution of policy?
- 2. How could the Watergate scandal have unfolded differently?
- 3. What policy priorities did Nixon emphasize during his second term?
- 4. Why did the Nixon Administration collapse so quickly?



Character list

Nixon's Cabinet:

Spiro Agnew, Vice President

Agnew, the Vice President to Richard Nixon, was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He studied at John Hopkins and University of Baltimore School of Law. He served as an officer during World War II, and again during the Korean War in 1950. In 1966, Agnew was elected the 55th Governor of Maryland. Agnew was a strong critic of communism and believed Democrats were "soft" on communism and the USSR. In 1973, Agnew was suspected of bribery, extortion, and tax evasion, and forced to resign in favor of Gerald Ford. (*The Fall of a President*)

Elliot Richardson, Secretary of Defense

Richardson served under the first term of the Nixon administration as the Secretary of Health, Welfare, and Education. Richardson also served as the Ambassador to Great Britain under Gerald Ford and Secretary of Commerce. He was made Secretary of Defense at the beginning of Nixon's second term. After the resignation of Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, he became Attorney General. An avid Republican, he stood by Nixon's side until his resignation in October of 1973. Richardson resigned because he strongly disagreed with the termination of Archibald Cox, who was accused of corruption charges under Nixon. Richardson was deeply troubled with resigning because he was not only loyal to his government, but to the President as well. Nixon's actions proved to be too unjust, and Richard's integrity was too high to abide by Nixon's unfair practices (Staff of the Washington Post. *The Fall of a President.*).



George Shultz, Secretary of the Treasury

Under the Nixon administration, Schulz entered government as Secretary of Labor from 1969-70, Director of the Office of Management and Budget from 1970–72, and then Secretary of the Treasury from 1972–1974 (Office of the Historian). Schulz studied industrial economics at Princeton University and served in the Marine Corps during WW2. "During his term in office, Shultz defended the Nixon administration's reluctance to pursue affirmative action programs aggressively and the administration's active campaign on union reform (Encyclopedia of World Biography)." Schulz also traveled abroad quite frequently to negotiate a multinational floating exchange rate system. "When the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) drastically increased oil prices after October 1973, causing rapid inflation, Shultz's call for an international rollback of prices went unheeded, and he worked hard to stop the recession in the American economy (Encyclopedia of World Biography)." Schultz resigned in 1974 to enter the private sector.

Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare

Caspar Weinberger was Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President Nixon. A lifetime Republican from California, Weinberger rose through the ranks of the Republican Establishment. He began his career in California politics under then-Governor Ronald Reagan and rose to national politics during Nixon's first term. As Secretary, Weinberger had authority over areas of public health and education. The position would later be split into two departments, Health and Human Services and Education. After his tenure in Nixon's administration, Weinberger was made Secretary of Defense under Ronald Reagan (Green).



Peter Brennan, Secretary of Labor

Peter Brennan was a union leader for construction workers and the Secretary of Labor under Richard Nixon. He joined the Nixon administration in its second term, in order to attract more labor and union support for the administration. Brennan supported raising the minimum wage and other labor-friendly policies but spoke out forcefully against affirmative action programs when hiring workers. His work was often overshadowed by the Watergate scandal. After Nixon had resigned, Ford fired Brennan from the Department of Labor.

William P. Rogers, Secretary of State

William P. Rogers served as Secretary of State under Richard Nixon, beginning during his first term. He had previously served as Attorney General under Eisenhower, which was when he first met Nixon. Rogers worked on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, attempting to establish a peace deal following the 1967 war. Rogers was close with Nixon, but he was overshadowed by Henry Kissinger, Nixon's National Security Adviser, who would direct most of the administration's foreign policy. Rogers resigned as Secretary of State in 1973 and was replaced by Kissinger.

Henry Kissinger, National Security Adviser

Henry Kissinger was born Heinz Alfred Kissinger in Fürth, Germany. His family was Jewish, and they fled the Nazi regime for the United States in 1938. He completed his undergraduate at Harvard, where he then remained to complete a PH.D. Most regarded him as intelligent, though introverted and quiet during his early life. During his time as National Security Adviser and Secretary of State for Richard Nixon, Kissinger planned the bombing of Cambodia to aid in the United States' withdraw from Vietnam. He also won the Nobel Peace Prize for his cease-fire



negotiation in Vietnam, one of the most controversial Nobel Prizes ever awarded (US Department of State).

Heads of Intelligence and Military:

James Schlesinger, Director of Central Intelligence

In 1969, Schlesinger was appointed as the as assistant director of the Bureau of the Budget, devoting much of his efforts to defense matters. Two years later, he became the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and aimed to promote nuclear energy. Schlesinger believed nuclear deterrence depended on several conditions: "maintaining essential equivalence with the Soviet Union in force effectiveness; maintaining a highly survivable force that could be withheld or targeted against an enemy's economic base in order to deter coercive or desperation attacks against U.S. population or economic targets; establishing a fast-response force that could act to deter additional enemy attacks; and establishing a range of capabilities sufficient to convince all nations that the United States was equal to its strongest competitors." (Historical Office; Office of the Secretary of Defense) Schlesinger devoted much of his efforts to NATO with the aim of nuclear deterrence.

L. Patrick Gray, Director of the FBI

L. Patrick Gray was born in St. Louis at the height of World War I (July 18, 1916). He skipped two grades of high school to attend Rice University, where he left one year early to attend the U.S Naval Academy. By his military retirement in 1960, he had served in both World War II and the Korean War in the submarine corps and in numerous commanding officer positions. Gray's involvement with Nixon began during his first run for President, where his position as a staff



member earned him enough credibility to take part in Nixon's administration nine years later in several different positions, one of which was his brief directorship of the FBI. During the Watergate scandal, White House counsel John Dean pressured Gray to send FBI documents related to the incident and was "left to twist slowly, slowly in the wind" by Richard Nixon at the advice of John Ehrlichman, domestic policy adviser. Gray eventually resigned from his position in 1973 after destroying documents related to E. Howard Hunt, who organized the Watergate break-in (Purdum).

Mark Felt, Deputy Director of the FBI

Mark Felt was born on August 17, 1913, in Twin Falls, Idaho and attended the University of Idaho before entering into governmental work. After earning his law degree at George Washington University, Felt joined the FBI in 1942, where he spent most of World War II conducting anti-espionage against the Nazis. He first met Bob Woodward, who he informed secretly under the codename "Deep Throat," in 1970, right before being promoted by J. Edgar Hoover to deputy associate director of the Bureau, making him third-in-command and in a position in which he could carry out most day-to-day work. He remained active in the FBI while informing Woodward of the Watergate break-in, confirming facts from other reports and helping lead the Washington Post in the right direction. Nixon and his aids nearly confirmed his whistleblowing in several taped meetings, but Felt denied these claims until 2005 in an interview with Vanity Fair (Weiner).



Alexander Haig, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

Alexander Haig was a general, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, and a military adviser to President Nixon. He served in the Korean War as a young man, and in the Vietnam War with the rank of colonel. During Nixon's first term, he worked with Henry Kissinger, and due to his experience in the Vietnam War, was involved in negotiations with South Vietnam. He became the Vice Chief of Staff in 1972 and served in that role during Nixon's turbulent second term. During the Watergate scandal, Haig became White House Chief of Staff, replacing Haldeman. He worked closely with Nixon and Ford to coordinate the transition to the Ford presidency.

Senators and Representatives:

Gerald Ford, House Minority Leader

Gerald Ford was a Representative from Michigan and the Minority Leader of the House of the Representatives. He served in the Navy during the World War II and went into politics shortly after. He opposed Lyndon Johnson and famously questioned the Democratic administration's handling of the Vietnam War. Ford rarely took extreme positions and was generally well-regarded among his colleagues. After the resignation of Spiro Agnew, Ford was made Vice President. When Nixon resigned, Ford became the 38th President. He was replaced by Jimmy Carter in 1978.

Barry Goldwater, Senator

Barry Goldwater was a Senator from Arizona and a former Presidential candidate for the Republican Party. Goldwater was one of the most prominent conservatives in American politics, with libertarian tendencies. He was defeated by Lyndon Johnson in the 1964 election. After that,



he became an elder statesman of the Republican Party and was a leader among Senate Republicans. Goldwater was well-known for his anti-communist beliefs, his opposition to labor laws, and his support for states' rights. After the extent of Watergate had been revealed, Goldwater encouraged Nixon to resign. He would continue to influence politics after his retirement when he became more moderate. His conservative ideology presaged the success conservatism would enjoy in the 1980s under Ronald Reagan.

Hugh Scott, Senate Republican Leader

Hugh Scott was a Senator from Pennsylvania and the Minority Leader in the Senate during the Nixon administration. Before entering the Senate, he served in the House of Representatives. Scott was known as a moderate, taking liberal stances on civil rights issues and opposing the more conservative Barry Goldwater. He worked with House Republican Leader Gerald Ford. Scott was known to dislike Nixon but nevertheless worked with the administration. Scott was closer to Ford during his presidency than he had been to Nixon.

Advisers and White House Staff:

John Ehrlichman, Chief Domestic Adviser

John Ehrlichman was a lawyer and a longtime Nixon aide. Having worked for Nixon's presidential campaigns in 1960 and 1968, Ehrlichman became White House Counsel during Nixon's first term. He worked closely with Harry Haldeman, another Nixon adviser. Ehrlichman and Haldeman were among Nixon's closest advisers. He had knowledge of the Watergate breakin and later helped Nixon with the cover-up.



Along with several other members of the Nixon Administration, Ehrlichman was fired officially charged over his involvement in the Watergate break-in. He was convicted and served one and a half years in jail.

Harry Haldeman, White House Chief of Staff

Harry Haldeman was Nixon's Chief of Staff and one of his most trusted staffers. Haldeman began working for Nixon in 1956 and rose through the ranks of Nixon's aides through his campaigns for governor and President. Nixon named Haldeman his Chief of Staff after the 1968 election. He was a close friend of Chief Domestic Adviser John Ehrlichman, and the two worked closely together as Nixon's aides and confidantes.

Haldeman, like John Ehrlichman, was fired by Nixon and tried for attempting to cover up the Watergate break-in. He asked Nixon to pardon him and was denied, for which he never forgave the President (Smith).

John Dean, White House Counsel

John Dean was White House Counsel to President Nixon, having been appointed to the position in 1970. He was an accomplished lawyer who initially practiced in Washington, D.C, and joined the federal government soon after Nixon's first election. Dean advised Nixon on legal matters and worked closely with the Committee to Re-elect the President. Dean competed with Ehrlichman and Haldeman to be one of Nixon's confidences. He was friendly with Senator Barry Goldwater. In 1973, Nixon fired John Dean. He was prosecuted for his involvement in the Watergate cover-up and chose to testify against the other collaborators in the cover-up.



Pat Buchanan, Special Assistant to the President

Pat Buchanan was an adviser to Richard Nixon. Originally trained as a journalist, Buchanan worked for Nixon's 1968 campaign, contributing opposition research and political strategy, and writing speeches for Nixon and Vice President Agnew. Buchanan was a social conservative an anti-communist, and deeply religious. He opposed the liberal reforms of the 1960s and was accused of racism and bigotry. After Nixon had left office, Buchanan worked for the Ford and Reagan administrations and became a political commentator.

John Mitchell, Adviser to the President

John Mitchell was the Attorney General of the United States during Nixon's first term and an adviser to Nixon during the second term. Before entering politics, Mitchell was a successful lawyer in New York. He was the director of the President's campaign in 1968 and became Attorney General for Nixon's first term. In this position, he emphasized Nixon's "law and order," tough on crime policies. He was looked up to by younger members of the Justice Department, including John Dean. In 1972, he resigned as Attorney General and ran Nixon's re-election campaign. After Nixon's second term, Mitchell was indicted and tried for his role in the Watergate scandal. He refused to testify against Nixon and was sent to prison (New York Times).

Charles Colson, Special Counsel to the President

Charles Colson was an adviser and counselor to President Nixon, beginning in his first term. A Washington lawyer, Colson worked with the Committee to Re-elect the President and the White House Staff. He was known as Nixon's "hatchet man" because of his devious political strategies



and willingness to break the law. Deeply loyal to Nixon, Colson once declared that he would have been willing to "walk over his grandmother" in order to protect the President. Colson was involved in the plot to attack and discredit Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers, and the Watergate conspiracy.

Colson was convicted and sent to prison for one year for his role in the Ellsberg conspiracy. He experienced a religious awakening and later became a prominent evangelist. Later in life, Colson founded religious programs for prisoners. (The New York Times)



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