

WHITEHEAD, SWORN IN AS DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, HOLDS FIRST BRIEFING FOR PRESS, INTRODUCES KEY AIDES; SEPT. 30 HEARING SET FOR MANSUR

Clay T. Whitehead, who had been sworn in as the first Director of the Office of Telecommunications Policy the preceding day by Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, in ceremonies in the "oval room" at the White House in which President Nixon participated, held the first of a projected series of "meet the press" sessions on Wednesday, September 23, to introduce his key back-up men to the Washington communications press corps, and to generally lay out "what we have on our minds", as he put it.

Introducing Dr. George F. Mansur, Jr., who has been nominated by President Nixon to be Deputy Director of OTP (IC, Sept. 11), Mr. Whitehead said Dr. Mansur would work with him as a "two-man team" in carrying out the responsibilities of the Office. The Senate Commerce Committee has scheduled a confirmation hearing on Dr. Mansur's nomination, for Wednesday, Sept. 30, it was pointed out.

Also introduced at the session was Stephen E. Doyle, who will serve as Special Assistant to the OTP Director, Mr. Whitehead said. Mr. Doyle has been serving for the past three years as Foreign Affairs Officer in the Office of Telecommunications, Bureau of Economic Affairs, Department of State. Earlier, he had been a senior staff attorney, Corporate (Comsat) Affairs Branch, International & Satellite Division, of the FCC, and before that, was associated with the Washington communications law firm of Haley, Bader & Potts.

Summarizing the executive order covering OTP, Mr. Whitehead stressed that the new Office has a "considerably broader responsibility" than its predecessor Office of Telecommunications Management, but he emphasized that while OTP will be making policy recommendations to the FCC, establishment of the new Office has "not affected the FCC in any way".

The Office is authorized a total of only 61 positions, about evenly divided between professional and support employees, and 58 of them are currently filled, the OTP Director noted. He said the Office is "just barely beginning to function", and if it is going to be effective, it must be "selective" as to major issues to be tackled, and "focus intensively" on the issues to be selected. The reorganization has included no intent to change the status or operations of the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee, he said.

As for OTP's responsibilities in the government area, Mr. Whitehead said he feels that the emergency preparedness role of the Office is a "very, very important responsibility", one that will "take a significant portion of our resources", and one that OTP will be taking "a new, fresh look at".

On the subject of managing the federal government's use of the radio frequency spectrum, the OTP Director said a "very, very large part" of the spectrum is currently allocated to government use, and the Office will be working closely with the FCC in "drawing the line" between government and non-government use. Alluding to the frequently-heard charge that the Department of Defense is "hoarding frequencies", Mr. Whitehead said he has not yet gotten into the question in sufficient depth to express a view one way or the other, but has firm plans to do so. The country as a whole, he said, does not have a "good feel" yet as to the relative merits of using the spectrum in various ways, but the subject is one upon which OTP will be concentrating.

Major issues which could well form the basis for OTP recommendations to the

FCC, or Congress, he mentioned as examples, would center on the "new services" which are having "a large impact on our society", such as those in the data transmission, computer, communications competition, and satellite communications areas. The country has a "very strong, very capable" common carrier communications industry, he observed, and one question which must be given attention is "where do we draw the line on competition?", when considering it against regulation of the industry.

Questioned about the possibility of shifting broadcasting from radio to the wired concept of program distribution, Mr. Whitehead said if this is to come about to any degree, or at all, strong consideration must be given to the question of what should be done to "ease the transition".

The OTP Director made clear that the Office is not going to respond to every FCC rulemaking procedure, but neither does it take the position that OTP will have to "wait for the FCC" to move in a given area before it makes a recommendation. He said he would expect that the contacts between his Office and the FCC would consist of "occasional verbal" exchanges, but by-and-large would be written expressions which will be made public, excepting only classification for security purposes.

Asked whether he expects to be consulted on Presidential nominations for such positions as members of the FCC, Mr. Whitehead said he does expect to be asked for his views "from time to time", indicating that he took part in discussions leading to the President's nomination of Sherman E. Unger to be a member of the Commission, though he said his was not a major role.

In response to an inquiry from Industrial Communications, as to whether OTP has plans to mount a "concerted effort" in the area of helping states to develop their communications facilities, Mr. Whitehead said he knows "very little in this area at the moment". He said he understands that the federal grant-in-aid picture is somewhat of "a jumble" at present, and that he "certainly plans to look into it", but that he cannot say at this point how much of the resources of the Office can be devoted to the problem.

Pressed on the matter of OTP's relationships with the FCC, the OTP Director emphasized that the views of his Office are to be recommendatory and advisory, and will not interfere with the Commission's statutory requirements to make its own decisions. Asked whether he "can see OTP ever appealing an FCC decision to the courts", Mr. Whitehead agreed that such a move is "conceivable".

He said he does not have a feel as yet as to how often his press briefings should be conducted, but he stressed that he wants a "fairly open interchange" with the press, in contrast to his previous role as Special Assistant to the President, in which he remained "relatively invisible" as part of the White House staff.

-End-

OT?
Background

September 24, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ANDREW J. MAY

I burdened you on very short notice with some extraordinary requests for picture services in conjunction with Mr. Whitehead's press conference on September 23rd. Your performance in light of the pressure of time and difficulties of transmission was equal to the difficulty of the task. We received everything we requested in time to be fully useful during the press conference. Mr. Whitehead has asked me to personally thank you for your support, and to that I would like to add my personal appreciation as Special Assistant here.

Thank you very much.

Stephen E. Doyle
Office of the Director

OTP
Background

September 18, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR STEPHEN BULL

For the Whitehead swearing-in ceremony to take place Tuesday, September 22, at 10:45 a.m. in the Oval Office, we propose to invite the following to attend:

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| 1. Clay T. Whitehead | Director-designate OTP |
| 2. Mr. Clay B. Whitehead | Father |
| 3. Miss Nancy Whitehead | Sister |
| 4. Mrs. Susan Kush | Sister |
| 5. Mr. Rex Kush | Nephew |
| 6. Miss Cindy Kush | Niece |
| 7. Dr. George Mansur | Deputy Director-designate OTP |
| 8. Mrs. Eva Daughtrey | Confidential Secretary |
| 9. Mr. Stephen E. Doyle | Special Assistant-designate |
| 10. Ambassador Abbott Washburn | |

Stephen Doyle
Office of the Director

cc: Mr. Whitehead
Mr. Doyle

SDoyle/Whitehead:jm

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(San Clemente, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Clay T. Whitehead, Special Assistant to the President, as the first Director of the Office of Telecommunications Policy.

The OTP is a new office in the Executive Office of the President, created by Reorganization Plan #1 of 1970. The Director is the principal advisor to the President on all telecommunications policy issues. His responsibilities also include: (1) coordinating and formulating executive branch positions on national telecommunications policy issues and communications executive branch recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission and the Congress; (2) coordinating the procurement, standards, and effectiveness of the Federal government's own telecommunications, including national security and emergency preparedness communications; (3) exercising final authority over the usage of those parts of the radio spectrum allocated for Federal use.

Whitehead has been the principal White House staff member concerned with telecommunications issues. He has coordinated the formulation of Reorganization Plan #1 and the Administration's recommendations on domestic satellite policies. In addition, he has been the White House contact for the Intelsat negotiations and for industry and public on telecommunications matters.

Mr. Whitehead, 31, was born in Neodesha, Kansas. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He later received his Ph. D. in management, also from M.I.T. with concentration on policy analysis, economics, and research and development management. While at M.I.T., he taught courses in electronics and political science.

Mr. Whitehead has served in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Captain. Both before and after receiving his Ph.D., he was with the Rand Corporation in California where he worked on arms control, air defense, and spacecraft systems engineering studies, and on the planning and organization of a policy research program on health services and other domestic policy areas. He has also served as a consultant to the Bureau of the Budget.

Following the election in 1968, Mr. Whitehead served on the President-elect's task force on budget policies and assisted on transition matters. He has been on the White House staff since January 1969.

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