

Few New Faces in Cabinet

By William Claiborne and William Claiborne Washington Post Staff Writers

The first months of the Ford administration would see no change in faces in the Cabinet, Nixon informed sources predicted yesterday.

Cabinet officers indicated they will offer to stay on as long as the new President wishes, after offering up their pro forma resignations.

Associates of Ford said they contemplated it unlikely that he will demand any top-level changes in the early months of his tenure.

After that, it is speculated that Ford will want changes in the domestic affairs departments and is likely to turn to persons with past political experience.

"It's not likely that he will move in any quick effort to dump anybody," said one friend. "I just can't see that happening. The likelihood is that the instant Ford Cabinet will be the Cabinet left by Nixon."

"Where you go after that is an unknown, but he would want strong people and in most areas people with political experience, except in State and Defense."

Cabinet officers uniformly responded yesterday that they expect to place themselves at the new President's disposal, offering to stay or leave at his request.

No one showed any signs of imminent departure and most indicated they hoped to play long-term roles in the new administration.

of State Henry A. Kissinger. Ford is said to look upon as a great Secretary of State and a man whose popularity and prestige in the country could add to the stability of the new administration.

Kissinger met with Ford yesterday afternoon in the Vice President's first discussion with a Cabinet member since it became apparent he would succeed quickly to the presidency.

Ford was described as having mended an incident in the last few weeks with Secretary of Defense James H. Schlesinger. The Vice President was described in a recent, frequently quoted magazine article as being dissatisfied with Schlesinger, considering him unable to deal satisfactorily with Congress.

Since that article, the two have breakfasted together and talked several times and aides say they have no significant differences on defense policy matters.

Schlesinger told reporters yesterday that his future at Defense would be solely up to Ford. If Mr. Nixon resigns, the Secretary was said to be prepared to stay indefinitely, but Ford would not want him to continue in the Cabinet.

"He has an interest in long-term strategic planning and in NATO," said one of the secretary's associates. "And personally he wants to stay."

In contrast to his approach to the Cabinet, Ford was expected to move quickly to bring in his own team at the White House. The Washington rumor mill was busy grinding out names of prospective executive aides yesterday.

Among the persons rumored to be in line for White House positions are Bryce Harlow, who has spent 11 years serving Republican Presidents and most recently was a counselor to Mr. Nixon, and Donald Humphreys, currently U.S. ambassador to NATO.

Other names being circulated are those of Charles E. Goodell, a former Republican senator from New York and now a Washington attorney, and Rep. Martha Griffiths, Democratic congresswoman from Michigan.

John J. Danaher, Washington bureau chief for the Detroit News, also was reported to have been offered a post in the Ford administration. He could not be reached for comment. An associate said he was at the office of White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler.

Another man being named as likely to play some role in the Ford administration is former Florida congressman William C. Cramer, who served as vice counsel during Ford's vice presidential confirmation hearings.

Ford is also said to have a high regard for former Treasury Secretary George Shultz and there is speculation that Shultz might be invited back into government in some position.

It is among the domestic Cabinet positions that Ford is likely to make his first changes, some months down the road.

Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton is a long-time political ally and friend of Ford, and it is likely that if he leaves the Cabinet, would be to take a high-level staff job at the White House.

A conservative with a voting record similar to that of Ford, Morton served five terms in the House during Ford's tenure there, and he keeps a photograph of the Vice President prominently displayed in his office.

It is thought he was the first Cabinet member to decline fully that President Nixon should not resign—because, he said, it would undermine the public's faith in the Presidency—Morton never was warmly embraced by the President's closest circle of advisers.

He always has, however, maintained close ties with the regular Republican organization and the Republican leadership on Capitol Hill, and it is for that reason that he is being mentioned by Ford's advisers for a job as White House congressional liaison.

He is also mentioned as a possible chair of the House subcommittee on the Committee from 1969 through 1971. Morton repeatedly with expressed satisfaction with his job at the "best job in Washington," and a source in Ford's office said that if Ford asked him to stay on, Morton would be content to do so.

Like most of the other Cabinet members, Morton is planning to submit a pro forma resignation, coupled with an offer to lend support to the new President.

If Morton were asked to join the White House as a top staff man, his decision might be influenced by the recent erosion of the Interior Department's empire, with the transfer of some major functions to the Federal Energy Office.

Labor Secretary Peter J. Brown returned to respond to questions about his future in the Ford Cabinet because an aide said, he felt it would be "very presumptuous at this time."

But Ford frequently has spoken highly of the former New York labor union official and is known to hold him in high esteem. The two men have traveled together to major labor conventions, and Labor department sources said Brown's pro forma letter of resignation would expressly state a willingness to stay on in the Cabinet.

More of an impalpable figure is Transportation Secretary Claude S. Brinegar, who has had little contact with Ford since his confirmation in January, 1973. Brinegar, a former executive of Union Oil Co. of California, normally is conservative in making public comments, and the man has no experience in the Watergate scandal.

An aide said that once Mr. Nixon's resignation is official, Brinegar will work with Mr. Nixon and "reached some mutually acceptable form of compromise."

Brinegar was to have flown to Alaska on an inspection tour yesterday. He then on to Anaheim, Calif., for a speech, when it was announced that Mr. Nixon planned to make a televised address the night.

Attorney General William B. Saxbe, the newest member of the Nixon cabinet on and the most of Watergate the subject also said to morally—has also said to if it to other reason than a desire to complete what he called the "advance operation" at the Justice Department.

Because the first three attorneys general of the Nixon administration fell victim to Watergate and its effects, Saxbe knew to feel deeply that a some continuity is an important now in other than in any other major government agency.



By Charles De Vreese—The Washington Post
Vice President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger meet yesterday.

to want to stay on the Cabinet. If Ford asks him to.

An aide, stressing that "this is the kind of situation where you have to be wanted first," said the two men have a friendly relationship. He recalled that Butz has made appearances at Republican fund-raising events in Ford's Michigan district and that the two have worked together closely in the past on agricultural legislation.

Ford is said to regard James T. Lynn of Housing and Urban Development as a competent executive and Lynn has indicated he is interested in staying on in the new administration.

A question mark is Fredrick B. Dent, the former South Carolina textile company executive who was appointed Secretary of Commerce in 1973. During his relatively brief tenure, Dent became one of Mr. Nixon's foremost defenders who insisted—until recent weeks, at least—that the President should not resign. An aide said that as far as he knew Dent hoped to stay on in a new administration.

Ford's Cabinet-making opportunities comes at a time when that institution had fallen to a low point in power and prestige. For most of the Nixon years.

Mr. Nixon's tenure, the White House staff exercises vast power over the department.

One result was a pattern of repeated changes at the top level, with Cabinet members entering and leaving the government at frequent intervals and some of the shuffling from department.

A total of 30 men held cabinet posts in Mr. Nixon's five and a half years. President Ford had only four cabinet secretaries and four treasury secretaries. The Commission on the Nixon years.