

Business as Usual Reported By White House Spokesman

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The White House reported yesterday that the government is operating as usual despite the Watergate fiasco and that President Nixon is "having no trouble recruiting people" for top posts.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren, reacting to reports that an unusual member of top posts are unfilled, said that the White House is getting "more offers of assistance" from qualified persons than it can use.

Warren produced figures to show that among a total of 520 top positions there are 48 vacancies, or a vacancy rate of 9.2 per cent.

Of 200 sub-Cabinet posts, there are 29 vacancies, a rate of 14.5 per cent, Warren said.

Warren said that there are 13 vacancies among the 115 ambassadorial posts.

State Department lists show at least 17 vacancies, however, with a number of other posts filled by persons who have submitted resignations.

The most important vacancy is in Moscow, which officials had hoped would be filled well in advance of the visit to this country June 18-26 of Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Other ambassadorial posts that are vacant are in New Zealand, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sweden, Portugal and Denmark.

Since the criticism the administration received following the nomination of Ruth L. Farkas as ambassador to Luxembourg and because of Watergate, there has been pressure on the President to avoid appointing big campaign contributors.

Mrs. Farkas' confirmation was held up briefly when it was disclosed that she and her husband had contrib-

uted \$300,000 to last year's Republican campaign.

Warren gave his report on administration vacancies after announcing changes in the Domestic Council, formerly run by John D. Ehrlichman, whose resignation was announced April 30.

Kenneth R. Cole Jr. succeeded Ehrlichman as executive director. The President, who is chairman, announced after the Ehrlichman resignation that Vice President Spiro T. Agnew would be made vice chairman of the Domestic Council.

Yesterday's announcement said that five former Domestic Council assistants would become associate directors under Cole. They are James H. Cavanaugh, Richard M. Fairbanks, James H. Falk, Dana G. Meade and Geoffrey C. Shepard.

In another announcement, the President said that he would nominate James E. Smith, deputy under secretary of the Treasury, to be comptroller of the currency. If confirmed, he will succeed William B. Camp, who resigned earlier this year.

With publication this week of the new Congressional Directory, the White House was scooped on an announcement it has long planned to make but has postponed mainly because of the Watergate case.

The directory lists Ken W. Clawson, deputy to Herbert G. Klein, the administration's director of communications, as deputy White House press secretary.

Klein, who had planned to leave last month, has delayed his departure at the President's request for a few weeks.

The White House had planned to announce that Clawson was becoming a deputy press secretary at

the time of Klein's departure. The directory also lists Gerald L. Warren and Andrew T. Falkiewicz as deputy press secretaries.

Warren has held the post for four years. Falkiewicz, a foreign service officer whose most recent assignment was in Moscow, joined the staff earlier this year to deal primarily with foreign policy issues.

The President scheduled a cabinet meeting for this morning and announced that Elliot L. Richardson will be sworn in as Attorney General at a White House ceremony following the Cabinet meeting.