# Few New Faces in Cabinet

By William Chapman
and William Claiborne
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The first months of the Ford administration would see no change in faces in the Cabinet inherited from President 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 considered 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.

"Leave? How could anyone do that?" asked one department head. "I don't know what else anyone can do except stay on."

"For whatever they are worth, I would offer my services to the new President and be glad to help him in any way he thinks appropriate," said Casper W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. "I am entirely at his disposal."

The one man regarded as certain to play a permanent long-term role is Secretary 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 what apparently was 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 incipient feud in the last few weeks with Secretary of Defense James R. 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 issues.

Schlesinger told reporters yesterday that his future at Defense would be solely up to Ford if Mr. Nixon resigned.

The Secretary was said to be prepared to stay indefinitely and to know of no reason 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 Rumsfeld, 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.

J. F. terHorst, 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 voluntary 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 charges, some months down the road.

Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton is a longtime 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.

Even though he was the first Cabinet member to declare flatly 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 advisors.

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 laison. Morton was chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1969 through 1971.

Morton repeatedly has expressed satisfaction with his job at Interior, occasionally calling it "the best job in Washington," and a source in his 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 planninig 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. Brennan refused 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 Brennan's pro forma letter of resignation would expressly state a willingness to stay on in the Cabinet.

More of an imponderable 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 he has made no exception in the Watergate scandals.

An aide said that once Mr. Nixon's resignation is official, Brinegar will wait until he has talked with Mr. Nixon and "reached some mutually acceptable form of comment."

Brinegar was to have flown to Alaska on an inspection tour yesterday and then on to Anaheim, Calif., for a speech, but he canceled the trip when it was announced that Mr Nixon planned to make a televised address the nation.

Attorney general William B. Saxbe, the newest member of the Nixon cabinet—and the most outspoken on the subject of Watergate morality—is also said to want to remain on the job, if for no other reason than a desire to complete what he calls the "salvage operation" at the Justice Department.

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

In his seven months at Justice, Saxbe has criticized Mr. Nixon's handling of Watergate, has castigated former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for excesses against the New Left, has suggested that conspirators sentenced in the Watergate coverup received too lenient prison terms, and has declared that the scandals represented the "greatest cloud in our history."

While this has not enamoured him with some of the White House staff, Saxbe said he had assurances from Chief of Staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. that he should continue what he termed "jawboning for decency." Moreover, the attorney general carefully sidestepped questions about impeachment, saying that responsibility for that rested solely with the House.

Both Ford and Saxbe, a former maverick Republican senator from Ohio, are conservative midwesterners, and aides noted that they had a warm relatonship during their years on Capitol Hill.

Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz is also known to want to stay on the Cabinet, if Ford asks him to.

An aide, stressing that "this is the kind of situation wher 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 Frederick 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 opportunity comes at a time when that institution had fallen to a low point in power and prestige. For most of Mr. Nixon's tenure, th White House staff exercise vast power over the depar ments.

One result was a patter of repeated changes at t top level, with Cabinet mer bers entering and leavi the government at freque intervals and some of the shifting from department department.

A total of 30 men he cabinet posts in Mr. Nixor five and a half years President. He had four torney generals and fo treasury secretaries. Defen Commerce and HEW ea had three secretaries durt the Nixon years.

By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post

Vice President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger meet yesterday.