

Reedy Won't Comment on Changes

Secret Service Aide Takes Over Powers' Duties at White House

PW 1/14/45
A new man moved into an old job at the White House yesterday but he really wasn't there.

He moved to a desk in the public lobby, where dozens of newsmen congregate every day. He sat at the desk and performed the duties of White House receptionist David E. Powers.

Powers was nowhere to be seen.

And White House news secretary George E. Reedy, probably under orders from another man who works at the White House, denied everything.

The new man, it can be confirmed by scores of persons who know him, is Emory Roberts, a Secret Service agent of considerable experience.

Roberts confirmed the spell-

ing of his name, but that was all. Reedy would not go that far.

Has Powers resigned?

"I don't know," Reedy replied.

Has Roberts taken his place?

"We will have an announcement on Powers and O'Donnell at an appropriate time when we announce the whole White House staff situation," the news secretary declared.

Does that mean that Special Assistant P. Kenneth O'Donnell has resigned?

Reedy said he did not know.

"Does this mean you cannot say what White House salaries are, who is resigning and who is joining the staff?" a belligerent reporter asked.

Reedy took a longer puff than usual on his pipe.

Last month, Reedy declined to disclose salaries paid White

House staff members. He said they would be announced at the time of the budget message to Congress, now scheduled for Jan. 25.

For some time, it has been known that Powers, O'Donnell and Lawrence F. O'Brien, Special Assistant to the President for congressional relations, had submitted their resignations.

Another man was back at the White House this week on an assignment he left a year ago. He is Yoichi R. Okamoto, a United States Information Agency photographer.

Okamoto was assigned to the White House as an official photographer after Mr. Johnson took office, but he stayed only about two months. Now he is back on at least a temporary basis.