

State Dept. Aide Offers Resignation

Security Chief Schwartz Claims Job Is Abolished

By John Maffre
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Abba P. Schwartz, controversial head of the State Department's security and consular affairs bureau since 1962, has offered his resignation to President Johnson because "my job doesn't exist any more."

Schwartz, who had the security part of his job sliced off months ago, said in an interview yesterday he was quitting because a job reorganization plan which he learned about on Friday abolishes his office.

The functions of his job will apparently go to his superior, with whom he had long been feuding, William J. Crockett, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration. But he said when he asked Crockett on Saturday for details of the proposed reorganization, Crockett replied that he was under instructions not to discuss it with him.

Travel Permit Fights

Schwartz, appointed by the late President Kennedy in 1962 and holding the rank of assistant secretary, has long been at loggerheads in the Department and on Capitol Hill for espousing a liberal policy in admitting foreigners of suspect political beliefs, and in permitting Americans—especially journalists—to visit certain restricted areas abroad.

He said he learned of the job reorganization plan first on Friday from Under Secretary of State George Ball, and later saw the Secretary, Dean Rusk. Asked what position the Secretary had taken, he thought for a moment, and replied:

"The Secretary did not dis-

courage me from submitting my resignation."

Plan Not Firm

State Department officials declined to comment on Schwartz's resignation, which was delivered to the White House at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. But it was learned that the job reorganization plan was only under consideration, and that it had not yet been submitted to Congress for approval.

The section which Schwartz directed was created by statute, and can be amended or abolished only by legislation. Unless Congress differed within 60 days of such a proposed reorganization, it would take effect automatically.

Schwartz said there had been no "prior consultation"

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with him on pending changes in his office.

As far as he knew, he said, the plan dealt only with the office that he held. But he emphasized that he had no specific details of the new proposal.

Schwartz's name has been linked with several feuds in official Washington, but the only name he would discuss yesterday was that of Crockett, and he phrased his comments carefully.

"Mr. Crockett has not been one of the most enthusiastic supporters of our policy of maintaining a free and open society," he observed.

He praised both the late President Kennedy and Mr. Johnson for stressing a liberal philosophy on the question of admitting foreigners with unpopular political beliefs, in the belief that "our society was strong enough to let these persons in."

He said that both Presidents had worked hard to remove the restrictions on U.S. citizens to go to certain restricted areas.

But Schwartz said that in following through on that policy he had "not had the support of all my superiors, including Mr. Crockett, to whom these functions are apparently being assigned."

Among the persons with whom Schwartz has been embroiled in State Department battles is Frances P. Knight, the passport bureau. But he declined to comment on the position of other figures in the Department.