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# The Washi

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Post 9/27/66

## Good Appointments

President Johnson has filled three posts at the State Department with thoroughly qualified, fully experienced, well-trained and able men. Their nominations suggest a continuation of present policy. They entitle the Administration to claim that it is maintaining its standards for Federal appointments.

Departure of Under Secretary of State George Ball came as no surprise; but the President must have relished the surprise occasioned by the appointment of Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach to succeed Mr. Ball. Surprise may diminish when citizens realize that the Attorney General has long expressed a career preference for work in the field of foreign affairs where he won academic distinction before coming to government. It will be further reduced by the realization that in the present state of the world, the second post in the State Department is a position of such importance that few other Federal offices rival it. It is a case of one distinguished lawyer succeeding another at a State Department level where the contribution that can be made to the conduct of foreign policy is limited only by the occupant's resources of wisdom and imagination. The country is fortunate to have had Secretary Ball in the spot and lucky to get the Attorney General as his successor.

The appointment of Eugene Rostow, former dean of the Yale Law School, to the third ranking job in the Department brings an able public servant back to the Federal service. It is a tribute to the persuasive powers of the President and his personnel recruiters that it was possible to get Rostow to undertake another stint of official duty. He is well equipped by training and experience to deal with the problems that confront the Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

Appointment of Foy D. Kohler, Ambassador to the Soviet Union, as Deputy Under Secretary of State, succeeding Alexis Johnson, now Ambassador to Japan, will strengthen still further the impressive resources of the Department in the field of Soviet Affairs. Service in Moscow frequently has the effect of hardening attitudes and imprisoning diplomatic officials in cold war stances; but senior career officers have an asset of professional detachment that ought to rescue them from rigidity. Experience ought to increase the ability to discern an opportunity for new policies as well as familiarize a diplomat with old policies. The Administration needs to be kept awake to the possibilities of fresh initiatives when favorable

openings present themselves. That surely is one of the responsibilities of Mr. Kohler's office.

The Department will profit by this infusion of new blood. The conduct of American foreign policy has become an enterprise so arduous and demanding that the hardiest and toughest and ablest public servants must feel the burden imposed upon them after the lapse of a few years. As other vacancies arise it is to be hoped they will be filled with men as able as those the President appointed yesterday.