

9/27/68
**Ambassador
Leaves to Aid
HHH Drive**

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Johnson announced yesterday the resignation of George W. Ball as Ambassador to the United Nations and the nomination of James Russell Wiggins, editor of The Washington Post, to succeed him.

Ball announced that he was resigning to devote all his time and energy to help assure the election of Hubert H. Humphrey as President.

The surprise announcements came late in the afternoon after the President summoned reporters to the Cabinet Room.

Praising Ball for his "dedicated and distinguished" service, the President said that he accepted his resignation "with reluctance."

'Most Respected'

The President described Wiggins as "one of America's most respected citizens" and said that he was happy that Wiggins would "cap his long career of public service by becoming his country's Ambassador to the United Nations."

Katharine Graham, president of The Washington Post Co., announced that she had accepted Wiggins' request for retirement.

Wiggins has been "the soul and conscience and driving force behind The Washington Post for more than 21 years as Managing Editor and Editor," she said.

Wiggins will be 65 years old on Dec. 4 and had planned to retire then.

"We would have missed him enormously then and we will miss him enormously now," Mrs. Graham said. "He has been a great editor and will be a great Ambassador to the United Nations."

Mrs. Graham said that a successor to Wiggins would be named soon.

In a letter to Wiggins, she

wrote: "It is difficult to face up to the reality that you are going to be 65 next December and will be 'going into retirement.'"

"I literally cannot imagine The Post without you. Both my father (the late Eugene Meyer) and Phil (the late Philip L. Graham) relied on you heavily. But for so many reasons I relied on you even more."

Native of Minnesota

In a letter to Mrs. Graham on June 19, Wiggins wrote:

"I don't suppose there has been a more generally satisfactory relationship between an ownership and an editor— from the editor's point of view at least—than that which has

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existed between the owners of The Washington Post and me . . . I have been rewarded beyond my deserts, tolerated beyond any reasonable expectation and humored beyond the requirements of ethics and etiquette."

'Domestic Politics'

On April 25, President Johnson chose Ball to succeed Arthur J. Goldberg as Ambassador to the U.N. Ball, formerly Under Secretary of State, was sworn in on June 24.

The President emphasized yesterday that Ball's resignation "has nothing to do with public policy but does have something to do with domestic politics."

He said that Ball offered his resignation Wednesday. Later in the day, the President telephoned Wiggins, who was at his summer home in Maine, to offer him the post.

Wiggins flew to Washington late yesterday to confer with the President.

In making the announcements, the President said Wiggins' name "stands for integrity in modern journalism."

"He is a past president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. He is a distinguished author. He is a man of

broad learning in international affairs. He has had my confidence and my acquaintance and respect for many, many years . . .

Ball called Wiggins "a very old friend of mine, a man of great qualities. I think he will do a good job in New York."

"I believe that there are few men in public life who com-

mand such universal respect as does Russell Wiggins.

"I believe, and my associates in the Government believe, that he will bring to the United Nations, in a critical hour, the qualities of understanding, good judgment and compassion—deep compassion—that have marked his life and his work to this hour.

Native of Minnesota

"I am very proud that Russell Wiggins has consented to join our official family to serve his country in a most vital and important post after so many years as a very wise and constructive and objective observer of public affairs.

"As he enters the arena of policy making, I am confident that America and the world have gained a great advocate for peace and for justice in the affairs of man."

Wiggins is a native of Luverne, Minn. He worked first on the Rock County Star in Luverne and later for the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press, where he was, succes-

sively, editorial writer, Washington correspondent, managing editor and editor.

During World War II, Wiggins was an air combat intelligence officer. He was discharged with the rank of major after serving in the Mediterranean theater.

In 1948-47, he was assistant to the publisher of The New York Times. From 1947 to 1953, he was managing editor of The Washington Post, and later was vice president and executive editor. Since 1961, he has been editor and executive vice president.