

Morton Predicts Little Difference Between Ford and Nixon Policies

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President Ford probably will put new emphasis on some Nixon administration policies in energy, resources and environment, but not alter their basic intent, says his old friend, Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton.

"I don't think there's going to be a redirection," Morton said in an interview Friday before the new President was sworn in. "It won't be policy differences but it will be a matter of degree and of emphasis."

"We do have a minerals problem that has to be solved, and a minerals policy that has to be honed down and sharpened.

"We do have a water-for-energy problem.

"We do have a problem in the area of our 'people administrations', to perfect the delivery systems," Morton said, referring to the trusteeship and services provided through his department's Bureau of Indian Affairs and Office of Territo-

"Certainly the whole area of energy research was embryonic in the Nixon administration, and I think that is going to be pushed forward because there is a real need for it."

Morton said he did not expect any contrast between Mr. Ford's views on these issues and those of former President Nixon.

"I think you could very eas-

ily get confused between Nixon policy and Ford policy, when one really is a more emphatic extension of the other," he said.

Morton said President Ford would be very interested in environmental protection as energy and mineral resources are developed, and might take a more personal interest in outdoor recreation development than Mr. Nixon.

In a speech last March, Mr. Ford said he "would couple Project Independence (the energy program) with a new idea called 'Project Protection' ... an action plan that takes into account the impact of increased domestic energy and agriculture production on natural resources and land use."