

Brinegar Resigns Post; Reorganization Told

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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Claude S. Brinegar, Secretary of Transportation for almost two years, yesterday became the second Cabinet member and the third Cabinet-level official to resign in the Ford administration.

The announcement that Brinegar will depart about Feb. 1 was made shortly before Donald H. Rumsfeld, assistant to the President, unveiled a White House staff realignment designed to give Cabinet officers and senior staff members greater access to the President.

Brinegar's resignation followed by only a day the resignation of Roy L. Ash as director of the Office of Management and Budget and by less than a week the resignation of Attorney General William B. Saxbe.

Informed sources indicated that John Robson, former general counsel of the Transportation Department, would be nominated to succeed Brinegar.

In his resignation letter, Brinegar told the President that his two years as the third Transportation Secretary "have been exciting, educational, and, at times, hectic."

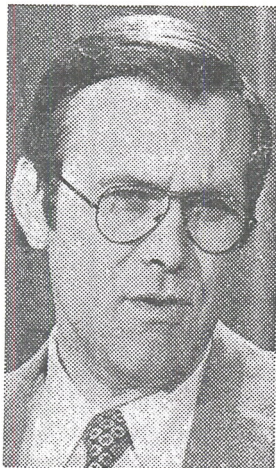
He said he believed he had made progress in a number of ways in improving the nation's transportation system.

The President praised Brinegar for his "dedicated service" and "capable leadership." Brinegar, who holds a Ph.D. degree in economic research, is a former executive of Union Oil Co. He was 48 this week.

Rumsfeld, who heads the White House staff organization, said nine staff members will report directly to the President, with all other



CLAUDE S. BRINEGAR
... to depart Feb. 1



DONALD H. RUMSFELD
... explains changes

White House aides reporting to one of the nine.

While declaring that it is "very difficult to put a set of complex relationships" on a chart, Rumsfeld said the new organization has evolved since

Aug. 9, when Mr. Ford became President, to fit his method of operation.

"The President has put his house in order from an organizational point of view," Rumsfeld said.

The object is to provide Cabinet officers, members of Congress and senior staff aides access to the President, to limit the White House staff function rather than to expand it, to establish a clear line of authority in the White House and to prevent isolation of the White House from the government and the public, Rumsfeld said.

In addition, a code of ethical standards and behavior was sent to all White House employees to assure that they will avoid conflicts of interest.

The White House staff, which numbered 540 on Aug. 1, will be under 500 within a month, Rumsfeld said. Of the senior professional staff of 112 Nixon holdovers, about 70 of them have departed, he said.

Asked what the biggest change has been, Rumsfeld replied: "The biggest change is the President himself. He is a different individual."

The President deals with a variety of individuals with different views, is comfortable with such a relationship and is willing to meet with large groups and listen to conflicting opinions, Rumsfeld said.

The new arrangements have the aim of "facilitating an orderly presidential decision-making process while assuring the President of multiple sources of information," a White House statement said. "Of course, the White House organization will continue to evolve."

For the first time in the memory of White House officials, a White House telephone directory was distributed to

members of the press.

The nine senior staff members were listed as:

Roy L. Ash, director of the Office of Management and Budget, and then his successor.

L. William Seidman, assistant to the President for economic affairs.

Kenneth R. Cole Jr., assistant for domestic affairs, who has announced that he will leave in February.

Henry A. Kissinger, assistant for national security affairs.

Donald H. Rumsfeld, assistant for White House operations.

John O. Marsh Jr., counselor to the President in charge of congressional relations and public liaison.

Press secretary Ron Nessen.
Robert T. Hartmann, counselor in charge of speech writing and other editorial matters and a policy adviser.

Philip W. Buchen, counsel to the President.