

Kuchel May Get High U.S. Post

Former U.S. Senator Thomas Kuchel is being checked by the FBI, it was learned yesterday, apparently a prelude to his appointment to a high post in the administration of President Ford.

Kuchel is now in private law practice in Beverly Hills. When he was asked about the possibility of his becoming part of the administration, he said: "I have no comment, no comment at all."

There was no indication for which job Kuchel, now 64, is being considered.

At the White House press office, an aide to press secretary Jerald ter Horst told The Chronicle, "we have had no information regarding that."

Kuchel was a senator from California from 1952 until 1968, and was considered to be from the liberal wing of the state's Republican Party.

Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Max Rafferty, a strict conservative, defeated Kuchel in a bitter primary election in 1968.

Rafferty was defeated in the general election that year by Alan Cranston, now the state's senior senator.