

Goodell Slated to Be Attorney General

By Jack Anderson

Charles Goodell, the former Republican senator who was ridden out of office by the Nixon administration because of his anti-war views, has now been tentatively chosen as the next Attorney General by President Ford.

In his 1970 Senate race in New York, Goodell was denounced by Vice President Agnew as the "Christine Jorgensen" of the Republican party. An able conservative in the House, Goodell had mellowed into a liberal-moderate in the Senate.

Largely as a result of the Agnew attacks and withdrawal of President Nixon's firm support, Goodell was trounced by Sen. James Buckley, a Conservative Party candidate. But House minority leader Jerry Ford's endorsements never waned and the two men remained friends.

When Mr. Ford became President and decided to extend amnesty to deserters and draft evaders, he picked Goodell to handle the ticklish chore. To date Goodell has kept the program fair, low-keyed and free from all but routine friction. The job will be all but completed in a few months.

In the last few days, the President and his advisers have tentatively settled on Goodell as the man to replace Attorney General William B. Saxbe if a graceful way can be found to get Saxbe to step down.

Saxbe dearly loves the job, however, and has told us he

came away from a meeting with Mr. Ford a few weeks ago with the understanding that he could keep it.

At the White House, Saxbe is admired for his tough stands on crime which have also won him popularity with the average American. But Saxbe is outspoken and often is caught with his foot in his mouth. In addition, his deputy Laurence H. Silberman is handling most of Saxbe's day-to-day duties already. Mr. Ford, therefore, has decided that Saxbe eventually must go.

FOOD PRICE WATCH—The government report that food prices have gone up only 14 percent will be challenged by Rep. Wayne Owens (D-Utah), who has conducted his own research in the supermarkets.

The price index is compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics which claims that Americans are spending 14 percent more for food than they did last year.

"It hurts more than 14 percent," Owens told us. Therefore, he sent his investigator into a large discount grocery store in Salt Lake City. The investigator compared shelf prices on Sept. 16, 1974, with those on June 8, 1973.

Choosing basic foods, he showed it is costing Owens' Salt Lake City constituents far more than 14 percent for their three meals. Here are his findings:

• Breakfast—Instant Tang, up 33%; Wonder English Muffins,

up 38%; Parkay margarine and Welch's grape jelly to go on the muffins, up 106% and 41% respectively; Pillsbury Hungry Jack pancakes, up 32%; Log Cabin syrup for the pancakes, up 36%; M.J.B. instant coffee, up 55% for Nestle's Choc Quick, up 34%; sugar for the coffee up 158%; Nabisco shredded wheat up 27%; milk in cartons, up 9%.

• Sack lunch — Bread, up 49%; Skippy peanut butter, up 25%; Clover Club potato chips, up 68%; Oreo cookies, up 39%; Glad sandwich bags, up 16%; the napkin cost 27% more and the Zec brown lunch bag 31% more.

• Mexican Economy Dinner—Woods Cross tomatoes, up 52%; golden grain pinto beans, up 198%; Minute rice, up 48%; Little Pancho tortillas, up 17%; Jell-O dessert, up 50%; popcorn while watching TV, a 66% increase.

Owens believes the government statisticians have been going into the wrong supermarkets.

Footnote: Another explanation, he suggests, is that the BLS statistics are based on old 1961 eating habits. He believes people eat less meat today than they did in 1961. But meat prices which are 9.6% lower than last year's prices have brought down the official index.

JOB RUCKUS—The chief lawyer for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has accused his chairman, John Powell, of "unwarranted and unau-

thorized interference" in a delicate discrimination case against the Purex Corp.

Instead of fighting for employees' rights through normal legal channels, charged Commission general counsel William Carey, Powell tried to help Purex get a settlement behind the scenes.

In an unusual confidential letter, Carey said Powell had gone behind his back to get Commission staff lawyers to sit down with a Purex representative. Carey also charged that Powell had advised Purex that problems in the case were only due to a "regrettable misunderstanding" by Carey's staff.

When Carey, a veteran trial attorney, learned of Powell's meddling, he fired off the letter. In it, he said Powell had "compromised the integrity of the Office of General Counsel" by making it appear a company could get "special treatment" by going to Powell.

The end result, said the scorching letter, was that Powell had hurt the case against Purex and taken a first step in destroying "public confidence" in the Commission's fight against racial, sexual and other discrimination.

Powell, in a talk with us, said the episode was caused by lack of staff cooperation and failure of Carey to sit down and talk with him before the affair "escalated." Powell defended his staunch record on employment rights.