

Ford Picks Morton to Become

Washington

The White House announced yesterday that Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton will be nominated as secretary of commerce.

Administration and congressional sources said former Wyoming Governor

Stanley K. Hathaway will be nominated to succeed Morton. The White House declined to name Morton's successor. It said only that President Ford has in mind a specific person for the post.

The secretary of interior

traditionally has been a westerner. Morton was the first easterner ever to head the department, which controls the extensive public lands in the West.

As secretary of commerce, White House press secretary Ron Nessen said,

Secretary of Commerce

Morton's prime task will be to persuade American industry to switch to coal as its primary fuel.

Both nominations require Senate confirmation.

Hathaway, a two-term Republican governor who decided not to seek reelection

last year, comes from a state with large coal reserves.

A native of Osceola, Neb., Hathaway, 50, is a former chairman of the Western Governors Conference and of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission.

The transfer of Morton to the Commerce Department was not expected, because it appears to separate him from some major energy programs in Interior. But Morton will retain his Cabinet leadership of energy pol-

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icy, the White House said.

One administration source speculated that the move, bringing Morton into more frequent and direct contact with the business community, might be a prelude to Morton's return to Republican party political activity in time for President Ford's planned campaign for reelection next year.

The White House, however, said the move was made to promote energy development and conservation.

The shift of Morton will mark the sixth Cabinet change since Mr. Ford took office last August.

At the Commerce Department, Morton will succeed Frederick B. Dent, who is Mr. Ford's special representative for trade negotiations, a cabinet-level position.

The administration also must find a successor to Interior's No. 2 man, undersecretary John C. Whitaker, who announced his resignation effective May 1, after he suffered a heart attack recently.

Nessen said Mr. Ford "has charged Secretary Morton with the responsibility for mobilizing American industry and the business community to expand re-



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ROGERS MORTON
Commerce post

source development and conservation efforts in meeting the energy challenges which the nation faces in the years ahead."

In addition to Morton's knowledge of coal technologies, Nessen said, the President wanted in the Commerce job "someone who himself came from the business community, who can talk to business leaders in their own language."

Morton was president of Ballard and Ballard Co. from 1947 to 1951, and then vice president and later a director of the Pillsbury Co.



AP Wirephoto

STANLEY HATHAWAY
In line for Interior

after the two firms merged.

He kept his position with Pillsbury, a major food firm, while serving as a Maryland representative in Congress from 1967 until 1971 when former President Nixon appointed him secretary of the interior. From 1969 to 1971, Morton was chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Morton got the job of interior secretary after Secretary Walter J. Hickel was fired for disagreeing too publicly with President Nixon over Indochina policy.

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