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KISSINGER CRITIC WINS A KEY POST

JUL 12 1975

Elected Head of the Foreign
Service Association
NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 11—John D. Hemenway, a thorn in the side of the State Department since he was forced out as a Foreign Service officer several years ago, was elected today as the new president of the American Foreign Service Association.

In a clear protest vote against the foreign policy establishment in Washington, the association elected Mr. Hemenway by a narrow margin over two other candidates, one the nominee of the current board of the association, and the other, a retired ambassador.

Mr. Hemenway who has regularly assailed the State Department's personnel policies before Congressional committees, waged an independent campaign to win votes from the members of the association, which is the legal bargaining agent for the 12,000 employees of the State Department, the United States Information Agency and the Agency for International Development.

A specialist in Communist and German affairs, Mr. Hemenway was "selected out" of the department in 1968 because he had not been promoted over a long period.

He waged a lengthy fight for reinstatement, which included the first grievance hearing ever granted a Foreign Service officer. Despite favorable recommendations from the board, the department refused to reinstate him.

Roles of The Office

His political views are on the conservative side and he has won the strong backing of several conservatives on Capitol Hill. Mr. Hemenway has charged the department with tampering with personnel files and promoting officers who were unqualified for the jobs. He generally has rankled the State Department bureaucracy and his victory today seemed to stun many officers who had not anticipated it.

As head of the association, Mr. Hemenway will be called upon to represent the Foreign Service officers and others on questions of new ambassadorial appointments and other matters of direct concern to the association.

In the past, the association has also given advice to the Secretary of State, and presumably this will continue, although Mr. Hemenway testified vigorously against Secretary of State Kissinger in the nomination hearings in September, 1973.

In the vote, Mr. Hemenway received strong support from members of the Agency for International Development and the United States Information Agency, both of which are confronting severe personnel problems.

The final vote was Mr. Hemenway, 1,104; Richard L. Williamson, the nominee of the current board of the association, 972; and retired Ambassador Elbert G. Mathews, 1,038.