

Hathaway Suffers From 'Depression'

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By BEN A. FRANKLIN
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WASHINGTON, July 22—Secretary of the Interior Stanley K. Hathaway said in a hospital statement today that he was suffering from "moderate depression" brought on by overwork.

The 51-year-old former Governor of Wyoming said nothing in his three-paragraph late afternoon statement about resigning, but reports that he had wished to quit, and that he had submitted his resignation, circulated here throughout the day.

Mr. Hathaway's chief press

Continued on Page 27, Column 2



The New York Times

Stanley K. Hathaway

HATHAWAY SAYS HE HAS DEPRESSION

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

spokesman, Sam Marler, said in response to questions about these reports that "so far as I know he doesn't intend to resign at this time."

"He has not submitted his resignation," Mr. Marler said.

"But it is possible that he considered it," the press aide added. SEE NY T 24 JUL

Moments before the Secretary's statement was read to reporters at 5 P.M., a senior White House official said privately that Mr. Hathaway's resignation was impending but not definite.

Want to Be Careful

"Nobody is quite sure which way it's going to go," the official said, adding that Mr. Hathaway "does feel he wants to resign but everybody wants to be very careful before a final decision is made."

In his public statement, Mr. Hathaway said that since he had decided to enter the Naval Medical Center at nearby Bethesda, Md., at about 4:30 P.M. last Tuesday—a decision not announced by the Interior Department until last Thursday in response to newsmen's questions that described him as "exhausted" and suffering from loss of weight—his doctors had advised him that "he is progressing well and is in satisfactory condition."

His statement today said:

"Mr. Hathaway said he had himself decided that he required treatment and notified President Ford on July 15. The White House physician, Rear Adm. William M. Lukash, recommended that the Secretary go to the Bethesda Hospital for observation and treatment. He was admitted at approximately 4:30 P.M. July 15.

"Since his hospitalization Mr. Hathaway has visited with members of his family and close friends. He also has been conferring regularly with Interior Department aides."

Reported Weak

The statement thus gave the impression that the Secretary was, to some extent, managing departmental affairs from his bedside.

One visitor to his tower 10 suite at the hospital, however, said that over the weekend, Mr. Hathaway had felt "terribly weak" and had remained slumped in a chair.

And Mr. Marler told a reporter tonight that one reason the Secretary might have considered a resignation was that "he wants the work he started to be kept going and feels he ought to clear the way for someone to carry it on."