

Hathaway Resigns as Secretary for Reasons of Health,

By BEN A. FRANKLIN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 25—Secretary of the Interior, Stanley K. Hathaway, although encouraged last week by President Ford to stay on while recovering from "moderate depression" and physical exhaustion, submitted his resignation again today, and it was accepted by Mr. Ford "with deepest regrets."

In resigning "for reasons of my personal health," the 51-year-old former Republican Governor of Wyoming ended one of the shortest Cabinet careers in history—six weeks.

In a statement released at the Interior Department, he said, "My doctors estimate that it will be two to three months before I could resume work."

"Considering the time involved, and the uncertainties about the time required for recovery, it is in the best interest of the nation that I step aside in order that action can start toward nomination and

confirmation of a new Secretary."

Mr. Hathaway was nominated April 4 to head the department, which has heavy responsibilities in both the energy and environmental fields. He replaced Rogers C. B. Morton, whom the President named Secretary of Commerce.

No Successor Picked

Mr. Hathaway had been confirmed despite opposition from environmental groups, particularly in the West.

The White House said today that a successor to Mr. Hathaway had not been selected.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed today that Roberta Hathaway, the Secretary's 48-year-old wife, was also hospitalized last Tuesday after experiencing anxiety over her husband's condition. Mr. Hathaway is in the Naval Medical Center at nearby Bethesda.

Responding to a query today, Sam Marler, Mr. Hathaway's press secretary, said that Mrs. Hathaway was admitted to an-



Associated Press

Stanley K. Hathaway

other Washington-area hospital, which he would not disclose, and was "under mild sedation." Tuesday was the day that Mr. Hathaway's doctors learned from blood tests that he was also suffering from

"mild diabetes." The effect of his own illness on Mrs. Hathaway was said to have convinced him that he should resign.

Mr. Hathaway did not mention his wife in either his letter of resignation or the department statement.

Pressed Mineral Output

The nomination of Mr. Hathaway stirred opposition largely because, as two-term Governor of Wyoming, an economically depressed state with billions of tons of strip-minable coal and other mineral reserves, he had been an aggressive proponent of rapid mineral development.

Senate confirmation of his nomination was delayed for weeks while critics testified in opposition. But the Senate vote approving him on June 11, was 60 to 36, with all but four of the "no" votes cast by Democrats.

The confirmation struggle, described as "rough" and "bruising" by Mr. Hathaway's

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and President Accepts

friends, took 71 days. When it was disclosed last week that Mr. Hathaway went to the President on July 15 to report, on his way to the hospital, that he was "exhausted" and feeling ill, the Secretary's associates explained his state of mind largely in terms of the trauma and the "questioning of his integrity" at the confirmation hearings.

Charge By Hansen

In an interview last Wednesday, for example, Senator Clifford P. Hansen, the Wyoming Republican largely responsible for bringing Mr. Hathaway to President Ford's attention and then for persuading the former Governor to forgo an impending appointment to a Federal judgeship and take the Cabinet post, said sarcastically that the Secretary's "troubles began with some of the fine reporting in The New York Times."

"He got an awfully tough going over in the hearings, with environmentalists harassing him with unfounded charges, and the newspapers just spread the word," Mr. Hansen said.

Once in office, Mr. Hathaway was reported to have encountered a further series of dismaying events.

According to a friend, one was the nearly total depletion of "the very modest savings" Mr. Hathaway accumulated in eight years as Wyoming's \$37,500-a-year Governor as the money was used for transportation to and living expenses in Washington during the confirmation period. The Secretary's \$60,000-a-year Cabinet salary which began on June 13, will continue until his successor is sworn in.

He was angry over departmental "news leaks," which he felt betrayed his expressed wish to impose a low-profile, tightly reined administration there.

And early in July he learned that he could not have his choice for Under Secretary—a post long vacant that he wished to fill with a career bureaucrat. Instead, he was told he would have to take an unknown man who was plainly a recruit of White House patronage officials, the Rev. Dr. William S. Banowsky.

Dr. Banowsky, a Churches of Christ minister and now the president of Pepperdine

University in Malibu, Calif., had been known as a supporter of and fund raiser for former Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, a potential opponent of Mr. Ford for the Presidential nomination next year, until he made a public endorsement of Mr. Ford on July 10. The college president, a religious Fundamentalist, returned to California from Washington on Tuesday after learning through calls on Senators here that he probably could not win confirmation.

Mr. Hathaway, on entering the hospital, complained of sudden, severe weight loss—15 pounds in a matter of weeks, reportedly—and debilitating fatigue. He had been unaware of the diabetes, but aides said today that doctors believed this illness was unrelated to the mental depression diagnosed at the hospital.

At the White House briefing for newsmen today in which Ron Nessen, the President's press secretary, announced the resignation and its acceptance, Mr. Nessen was asked whether, in addition to the routine Federal Bureau of Investigation field check conducted into the affairs of all Presidential appointees, Mr. Hathaway had undergone a "personal profile" that might have disclosed incipient mental depression.

No Previous History

Mr. Nessen replied sharply, "I feel compelled to say that Mr. Hathaway has never had a previous history of similar illness."

He said the President had not talked to Mr. Hathaway by telephone. He said the resignation letter, bearing today's date, was delivered to the White House last night but was withheld until today pending preparation of the President's letter of acceptance.

Asked what had caused Mr. Ford to receive Mr. Hathaway's second proffer of a resignation when he had rejected the first one on July 15, Mr. Nessen replied, "Secretary Hathaway made clear late yesterday that he wanted to follow this course."

Kent Frizzell, the department's solicitor, or chief lawyer, is now the Acting Secretary.

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