

# Nation's New Defense Chief

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Donald Henry Rumsfeld NOV 4 1975

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There are people in Washington who find him a little frightening in his seeming ambition, and there are others who like him so much they decline to talk about him lest it might damage a friendship.

Men  
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News

But no one who has anything to do with Donald Henry Rumsfeld is indifferent to the precocious politician who became a government official and is now continuing on his way to higher office—as Secretary of Defense, if confirmed.

His life seems to have had something all-American about it at almost every stage: high school wrestling champion, scholarship holder at Princeton, Navy jet pilot, Congressman at age 29, member of the Nixon Cabinet at 37, United States representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization four years later, and then chief assistant to President Ford.

He appears to have demonstrated what a schoolmate called "a talent for leadership" very early, and rarely, in the memory of those who

have known him long, has he slipped up.

One of those occasions involved his former friend, Al-lard K. Lowenstein, and the 1970 elections. In what became a rough Congressional campaign, Mr. Rumsfeld, a Republican first endorsed the New York Democrat and then turned around and supported his opponent. They have not spoken since.

## Limit to Fairness Seen

"I think he's fair up to a point," said a former White House official who worked closely with Mr. Rumsfeld. "He has a great deal of personal ambition, and in a choice between the greater good and personal good he would pick what's best for Don Rumsfeld. That is disquieting for me, although I think he'll do a good job."

A State Department official who watched Mr. Rumsfeld at close quarters during his NATO days said:

"He drove his troops pretty hard, but they respected him because he worked hard too."

Under President Ford, Mr. Rumsfeld has earned a reputation as an efficient if austere manager who does not suffer fools gladly. He is

also noted for a "splendid sense of timing"—an allusion to his apparent ability to move out of jobs before they become unrewarding, as he did when he went from the White House to the NATO post just before the Water-gate scandals broke over the Nixon Administration.

He was born on July 9, 1932, in Chicago, the son of a real estate developer and grew up in the prosperous suburb of Evanston, where he attended New Trier High School.

He married Joyce Pierson, his hometown sweetheart, in 1954, the year he finished Princeton, and they are still seen holding hands. Mrs. Rumsfeld has worked in a Washington dress shop to help the family finances. The Rumsfelds have two daughters and a son.

With his flashing smile and self-confident manner, Mr. Rumsfeld would seem to live up to the expectations of those who credit him with Presidential ambitions. But he can also be distant to people who work with him.

"Every time you meet him, it's for the first time," one commented today.