

NEW H.E.W. HEAD CALLS SELECTION 'OUT OF THE BLUE'

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Richardson Reports Rogers
Told Him Only 24 Hours
Before Announcement

AN APPEAL TO STUDENTS

Commencement Talk Asks
More Understanding About
Nation's Foreign Policies

By RICHARD D. LYONS

Special to The New York Times

LOWELL, Mass., June 7—
Elliot L. Richardson said today
that his selection by President
Nixon as the new Secretary of
Health, Education and Welfare
had been a complete surprise.

"It was right out of the blue,"
said Mr. Richardson, who will
leave his post as Under Secre-
tary of State to head H.E.W.

According to Mr. Richardson,
the first news of his impending
nomination had come from Sec-
retary of State William P. Rog-
ers less than 24 hours before
the public announcement by
Mr. Nixon that Robert H. Finch
was to be replaced as H.E.W.
Secretary.

Mr. Richardson said the Pres-
ident made the formal offer of
the secretaryship late Friday
afternoon, less than 24 hours
before the offer was announced
at the White House.

Speaks at Commencement

Mr. Richardson made these
remarks at a news conference
at the Lowell Technological In-
stitute, where he had arrived
from Washington to deliver the
commencement address and ac-
cept an honorary degree of
doctor of science.

In his address to the 611
persons receiving degrees and
several thousand guests, Mr.
Richardson pleaded with the
older generation to be more
tolerant of the opinions of
youth and with the nation's
younger people to be more un-
derstanding of the foreign poli-
cies of their Government.

Mr. Richardson, who will be
supervising the Government's
main education department,
seemed to be extending an
olive branch from the Nixon
Administration to the nation's
college students, many of
whom have been critical of
many Administration policies.

Conciliatory in tone and

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RICHARDSON CALLS CHOICE A SURPRISE

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content, the speech differed
sharply from those for which
Vice President Agnew, for ex-
ample, has become noted.

Mr. Richardson cautioned
young people not to dismiss
"historical experience," such as
Czechoslovakia in 1948, as be-
ing "simply not relevant" to the
affairs of today.

Mr. Richardson said there
had been a "generational dif-
ference" in this nation over the
course and conduct of foreign
affairs. "I firmly believe, none-
theless, that these disagree-
ments can be resolved," he
said. The Administration, he
said, has been listening to
youth.

Pledges an Open Door

"I assure you that my own
door will still be open when I
move to my new assignment
at the Department of Health,
Education and Welfare," he
said, adding:

"I fully intend to follow the
example of Secretary Finch in
maintaining an open line of
communications with young
people."

At his news conference, Mr.
Richardson said: "I am not in
a position to give answers to
questions about H.E.W. I don't
have any anyway. I haven't
had time to become familiar
with the department."

He said he had discussed the
problems at H.E.W. with Mr.
Nixon and Mr. Finch but "only
in a very preliminary way."

Mr. Richardson said of his
nomination that it was the po-
sition in which the President
felt that I could be of greatest
service."

"I felt as a public servant
that I had only one course be-
fore me—to accept the assign-
ment," he added.

Mr. Richardson said that
even though he had educated
himself "toward problems of
foreign policy" in his six-month
tenure at the State Depart-
ment, he felt qualified for the
H.E.W. secretaryship because
of his experience as Under
Secretary during the 1950's
under the Eisenhower Adminis-
tration.

In his address, Mr. Richard-
son warned that acceptance of
what he called such "simplistic
slogans" as "no more Viet-
nams" could lead to a new and
harmful isolationism within
the United States.

Addressing himself more to
the young people of the whole
country than to just those
gathered on the campus of this
little New England mill town,
Mr. Richardson said:

"You tend to assume that
the fear of Communist aggres-
sion and expansionism that has
dominated our strategic think-
ing is no longer warranted.

"You believe that the ideo-
logical differences between
Communism and what we call
the free world are seldom
really meaningful or critical.

"You insist that peace is
divisible—that what happens
in distant parts of the world
such as Southeast Asia has no
palpable effect on the security
of the United States."

Mr. Richardson said the
foreign policies of the Nixon
Administration "seek to sub-
stitute partnership for domina-
tion, normal contacts for old
enmities, and negotiated agree-
ments for situations of ten-
sion."

Mr. Finch, the outgoing Sec-
retary of Health, Education and
Welfare, is becoming an ad-
viser to the President with the
title of counselor. Because of
many controversies, he was
under severe pressure during
his 16 months as Secretary,
and his departure from the
Cabinet—the first Cabinet
change in the Nixon Adminis-
tration—had been rumored for
some time.