

Packard Won't Take Defense Post

Washington

Former Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard yesterday ruled out any chance that he would take over the job of Defense Secretary from Elliot L. Richardson.

Packard had been sounded out by the White House over the weekend, government sources reported, to see if he were interested in replacing Richardson when the Pentagon boss moves over to the Justice Department as attorney general.

Packard also was singled out by his former chief, ex-defense secretary Melvin R. Laird as "the best man" to move into Richardson's job, but in a statement issued in Palo Alto, the multi-millionaire industrialist said: "I have considered the possibility of returning to Washington very carefully, and have concluded that I am not able to do so."

Meanwhile, the search for a man to take over from Richardson goes on, with speculation of it official — focused on:

The current deputy secretary of defense, William P. Clements; undersecretary of state Kenneth Rush, HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger, HUD secretary James T. Lynn, NATO Ambassador Donald Rumsfeld, CIA Director James R. Schlesinger, Navy Secretary John W. Waner, strategic arms negotiator Paul Nitze and Colorado Governor John Love.

Former treasury secretary John B. Connally's name has also been mentioned.

Yesterday the Pentagon formally announced the long-expected resignation of Army Secretary Robert F. Froehlke, who has been the army's top civilian official since 1969. He will return to the executive offices of Sentry Insurance Co. in Wisconsin.

Froehlke's replacement is expected to be Howard H. Callaway, a former Republican congressman from Georgia who was an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1966.

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