

Wd Post

MAY 2 1973

Packard Rules Himself Out As Secretary of Defense

By Michael Getler
Washington Post Staff Writer

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

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

Packard also was singled out yesterday by his former boss ex-Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird as "the best man" to move into Richardson's job. But in a statement issued in Palo Alto, Calif. the multi-millionaire industrialist said: "President Nixon continues to have my complete confidence and full support in these trying times. 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 focused on about nine men already in government.

These include the current Deputy Secretary of Defense William P. Clements; Under Secretary of State Kenneth Rush, HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, HUD Secretary James T. Lynn, NATO Ambassador Donald Rumsfeld, CIA Director James R. Schlesinger, Navy Secretary John W. Warner, strategic arms negotiator Paul Nitze, and Colorado Gov. 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.

Froelke's replacement is expected to be Howard H. (Bo) Callaway, a former Republican congressman from Georgia who was an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1966. Callaway's appointment has been expected for several weeks, and is now said to be imminent.

The White House did move yesterday to fill one of the key, long-vacant Pentagon posts, announcing the nomination of Robert C. Hill to become Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (ISA).

Hill is a former ambassador to Spain and Mexico and a long-time political ally and worker for President Nixon dating back before the President's successful 1968 campaign.

The office that Hill will head is a pivotal one within the government-wide defense establishment, handling matters that are of direct concern to both the White House National Security Council and the State Department.

In the past, especially under President Johnson, the ISA office was extremely active in everything from development of national security policy to arms sales overseas. It was also the place where much of the work on the Pentagon Papers was done and where opposition to the war in Vietnam began to sprout inside the Pentagon.

The office remained active under Defense Secretary Laird, but with a narrower charter.

It was also "Law Day" at the Pentagon yesterday, as it was elsewhere, and Defense Secretary Richardson told a group of military and civilian Defense Department lawyers that he "did not dream that when I accepted the invitation" to address that group "it would be on the brink of undertaking a very direct responsibility for implementing the themes of Law Day."

Richardson said he accepted the President's nomination to become attorney general "because I have an overriding duty to do so."

In a speech sure to be scanned for a clue to his future actions the Secretary

chose to emphasize the spirit of moderation and pragmatism in the conduct of legal business and in the administration of justice.

Richardson talked of his experience as a law clerk with revered federal Judge Learned Hand who described moderation as "the awareness that any abstract doctrine must always be tempered by a sympathetic understanding of the situation in which it is applied."

Richardson went on to quote from Hand:

"What is the spirit of moderation? It is the temper which does not press a partisan advantage to its bitter end, which can understand and will respect the other side, which feels a unity between all citizens—real and not the factitious product of propaganda—which recognizes their common aspirations—in a word, which has faith in the sacredness of the individual."

In his televised address to the nation Monday night, Mr. Nixon said: "I will not place the blame on subordinates—on people whose zeal exceeded their judgment, and who may have done wrong in a cause they deeply believed to be right."