

## Wrong Man for the U.N.

When President-elect Nixon in late 1968 named Charles W. Yost to be chief United States representative at the United Nations he said it was "probably one of the best appointments I have made."

"It is my belief," said Mr. Nixon, "that at this particular time we need the kind of Ambassador Mr. Yost will be: a highly skilled negotiator, a man who knows the U.N. and is deeply dedicated to seeing it strengthened." He added with emphasis that Mr. Yost, who had retired in 1966 with the rank of career Ambassador after 36 years in the Foreign Service, had agreed to serve "for the duration."

Now, after a "duration" of less than two years, Ambassador Yost is evidently marked for abrupt discharge, to be replaced by a man with none of his qualifications and practically no experience of diplomacy. Moreover, Mr. Yost had to learn from the newspapers of Mr. Nixon's plan to replace him with Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

This was incredible treatment for the man whose services Mr. Nixon was so pleased to obtain two years ago. Mr. Yost, a Democrat, had served the Nixon Administration with intelligence, industry and loyalty. If he had differences with the White House—on the Middle East or anything else—he kept them to himself and faithfully carried out the policy in the best Foreign Service traditions. He was a man of stature at Turtle Bay and will be missed in a forum which still might be pivotal on the Middle East conflict.

His reported successor has exhibited outstanding qualities in public life—but almost never those of a diplomat. Dr. Moynihan is a storehouse of ideas on urban problems and is prone to advance them pungently and provocatively—on occasion in ways that later require much elucidation and clarification.

Dr. Moynihan had been expected to return in January to Harvard and the Joint Center for Urban Studies. If he wished to stay on as a relic of the New Frontier in the Nixon Administration, however, it would seem logical for him to continue in the area of urban problems on which he is an authority and to persist especially in the fight for welfare reform, now in deep trouble on Capitol Hill.

He is likely to be bored stiff at the glacial pace of United Nations diplomacy, but however that may be he is simply not qualified for this job. If he views it as a possible way back into New York politics, he should reflect on Arthur J. Goldberg's fate earlier this month. But Mr. Nixon should save Dr. Moynihan this trouble by thinking again—hard—about the U.N. requirements that were so clear to him when he announced Mr. Yost's appointment two years ago.