

THE

OUSTER PRODUCES MIXED REACTIONS

Congressmen Praise Hickel as Well as Successor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (UPI)—Emotions in Congress were mixed Wednesday on the ouster by President Nixon of Walter J. Hickel as Secretary of the Interior. Senator Gaylord Nelson, Dem-

ocrat of Wisconsin, who had voted against Mr. Hickel's confirmation because he thought the former Alaska Governor would be likely to side against conservationists, said, "It turns out he had a great instinct for what was right and the guts to act on his convictions."

Representative Morris K. Udall, Democrat of Arizona, brother of former Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall, said the President missed "a great opportunity" when he did not name Representative Rogers C. B. Morton to the post in the first place.

"Morton is one of the really

outstanding members of Congress," Mr. Udall said. "He has great judgment, courage, and works well with people. I predict he will be one of the great Secretaries."

Senator Edward W. Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, who was one of the most vocal opponents to Mr. Hickel's appointment, said he regretted the ouster.

"He's been an outstanding Secretary," Mr. Brooke said. "I have the greatest respect for what he's done. I didn't feel he had the qualifications for the job. He's proven me wrong."

Senator Charles E. Goodell,

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Republican of New York, described Mr. Hickel as "a good and decent man [who] has been purged by an Administration that either cannot or will not tolerate even the slightest display of independence—such arrogance that led to the firing of Secretary Hickel is insufferable."

Mr. Goodell, who was not supported by the Administration in the midterm elections and was defeated, said Mr. Hickel's dismissal may mean that "the Nixon loyalists will not be satisfied until every last vestige of progressive Republi-

canism is driven from the party."

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, which recommended Mr. Hickel's confirmation and will hold hearings on Mr. Morton's nomination, was on the way to his home state and not immediately available for comment.

But Senator Clifford P. Hansen, Republican of Wyoming, a committee member, said he did not know why Mr. Hickel was dismissed, then added:

"This certainly is the President's prerogative. He appoints

these people and I fully recognize his right to ask for the resignation of any member of his Cabinet any time he feels he doesn't want to have his services."

As to Mr. Morton, Senator Hansen said: "He's done a good job for the party and he certainly should have no trouble being confirmed."

Representative John Saylor, Republican of Pennsylvania, ranking G.O.P. member of the House Interior Committee, praised Mr. Hickel. "On an over-all basis he has been a good Secretary under extremely difficult circumstances."