

Laird Says He Plans to Quit As Defense Chief in 1973

MADISON, Wis., April 24 (UPI)—Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird told the University of Wisconsin Daily Cardinal in a copyrighted interview that he would leave his cabinet post in 1973.

In Friday's edition of the student newspaper, a Cardinal reporter, Peter Greenberg, quoted Mr. Laird as saying, "Four years as Defense Secretary is long enough. I'm not interested in being Secretary of Defense another four years."

The interview was conducted Thursday in Mr. Laird's Pentagon office. Julian Levine, a Defense Department public affairs official, who was present for part of the interview, confirmed that Mr. Laird planned to retire as Secretary in 1973.

"He has often said that he probably will resign in January of 1973 when either the present Administration starts its second term or a new administration takes over," Mr. Levine said.