

Director of Controls

George Arthur Lincoln

By E. W. KENWORTHY

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 16—Brig. Gen. George Arthur Lincoln, who, as director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, will be in charge of the 90-day wage-price freeze announced by President Nixon last night, has not been a headline figure in the national press. But in the trade press dealing with the petroleum and mining industries and in Congressional committees concerned with such recondite and money-laden matters as oil import quotas and Federal stock-piling of strategic and critical materials (115 of them worth \$6.3-billion as of last March), General Lincoln is well known indeed.

As director of the preparedness office, a job he has held throughout the Nixon Administration, the General is in charge of stockpiles. And as chairman of the President's Oil Policy Committee, he is the spokesman for the White House on decisions relating to the petroleum industry.

A Shrewd Country Boy

"When talking to newspapermen or Congressional committees," a man knowledgeable about the oil industry said today, "George Lincoln puts on the air of a dumb country boy. He always begins by saying 'Now, you know a lot more about this than I do.' But my assessment of him is that he's a sharp, shrewd country boy. He does what the White House wants him to. He's a front man and well-fitted for the job."

As an example of the General's loyalty, this observer, and others, cited today his about-face on the question of oil import quotas last year.

In February, 1970, a majority of a Cabinet-level task force headed by then Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz recommended after a year's study that oil import controls be shifted from the 11-year-old quota system to tariffs, a move that might have lowered somewhat the price of oil.

Dismissing the argument of the oil industry that quotas were necessary to protect national security, the task force majority said that if controls were to be imposed for national security, they should interfere "as little as possible" with competitive market forces.

But on Aug. 17, 1970, General Lincoln, as head of the Oil Policy Committee, wrote the President, saying the committee "concur with my judgment that we discontinue consideration of moving to a tariff system of control." In this judgment, he said, national security was "a central consideration." The President also concurred with this judgment.

Fourth at West Point

General Lincoln was born on a farm near Harbor Beach, Mich., on July 20, 1907. After attending the University of Wichita in Kansas in 1924-25, he transferred to the United States Military Acad-



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emy, where he graduated fourth in his class of 1929, and first in mathematics. He was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University, and took a B.A. and M.A. in economics, politics and philosophy at Magdalen College there.

His first Army service was with the engineers at Fort Logan, Colo., and there he met and married Frederica Bellamy of Denver in 1936. They still have a ranch outside Denver. His wife is an ardent horsewoman.

Most of General Lincoln's Army career was as a staff officer or a teacher at West Point, with periodic diplomatic assignments.

From 1937 to 1941, he was an instructor at West Point. He left the academy to become executive officer of a combat engineering regiment in Europe in 1941-1942. He was transferred to the War Department General Staff in Washington and served there from 1943 to 1947. That year he became professor of social science at West Point. In 1954, he became chairman of the department, a post he held until President Nixon made him director of the office of preparedness in March, 1969.

Many Special Posts

Over the years, he had many special assignments as military adviser to the Secretary of State at the Paris peace conference (1946); Deputy to the Under Secretary of the Army (1948-49); special assistant to the Secretary of Defense (1951-53); member of the United States delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1951-52); member of the Draper Committee studying foreign military aid (1958), and adviser to the Agency for International Development (1964-65). He was also a panelist for the Gaither and Rockefeller reports on foreign affairs in 1957-58.

General Lincoln has collaborated on five books dealing with national security, foreign affairs and foreign aid.

The Lincolns have four children, three daughters and a son who served as a captain in Vietnam.

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