

SENATE CONFIRMS PENTAGON CHIEF

—JAN 30 1973

Vote for Richardson Is 81-1

—Brennan Advances

NYTimes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (AP) —The Senate confirmed today President Nixon's nomination of Elliot L. Richardson to be Secretary of Defense.

The vote was 81 to 1, with only Senator James Abourezk, Democrat of South Dakota, voting against the appointment.

Senator Abourezk said he considered Mr. Richardson "very capable" but had voted against him as part of an effort to "retrieve Congressional power that has eroded away to the executive branch."

Mr. Richardson, who has been Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, succeeds Melvin R. Laird as Defense Secretary.

Earlier, the Senate Labor Committee approved without a dissenting vote the nomination of Peter J. Brennan, leader of the New York State and City Building Trades Unions, to be Secretary of Labor.

This completed Senate committee approval of all of Mr. Nixon's new Cabinet members. Three of them still have to be acted on by the Senate.

Link With Budget

Action on the nomination of Caspar W. Weinberger to succeed Mr. Richardson in the H.E.W. post may be held up by Democratic senators until after they question him further about Mr. Nixon's planned budget cuts in domestic programs affecting that department.

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Senate Democratic leader, said Saturday he did not know whether action would be taken this week on

the nominations of Mr. Weinberger and James T. Lynn, who has been designated to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

He said that he hoped to win Senate approval this week of a bill to require President Nixon to submit to the Senate for confirmation the top two officials in the Office of Management and Budget, Roy L. Ash and Frederick Malek.

Senator Mansfield disclosed that he had written to all committee chairmen to ask prompt action on measures vetoed by Mr. Nixon after Congress adjourned in October, and on other proposals as well.

Delay Protested

Mr. Lynn and Mr. Weinberger have been assigned dual roles as department heads and Presidential advisers. Any Congressional effort to question them on budget cuts might cause the Administration to invoke the executive privilege to shield them from full consultation with Congress.

Mr. Mansfield said he doubted that the Senate would complete action on the Cabinet by the time it recesses Feb. 8 for a few days for the annual Republican Lincoln Day speeches.

Republicans have protested the Senate's delay in acting on the Cabinet appointments, saying that it was making it difficult for Government departments to function.

President Nixon submitted the Federal budget to Congress today, but Congress will not receive details on funds that have been impounded by Mr. Nixon until Feb. 10.

Senate hearings open tomorrow on a bill sponsored by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, to curb the impounding practice.