

Park Service Hires Nixon Advance Man

Associated Press

A former Advance man for the Committee for the Re-election of the President has been hired to manage the contracting of private business concessions within the national parks.

National Park Service Director Ronald H. Walker revealed the appointment of Jon Foust in an interview. He said Foust had been in the job two or three weeks.

Foust, 35, is an accountant and a long-time associate of Walker, who was himself an "advance man" making travel arrangements for President Nixon before being appointed to head the park service last January.

Some 300 private concessions operate within the national parks, providing visitor services including hotel and restaurant accommodations, snack bars, souvenir shops and bookstores. Some are operated by big corporations, others by small family businesses.

Walker said the future of in-park concessions, including the extent to which they should be permitted to remain, is under review.

Both Foust and Walker formerly worked for Allstate Insurance Co. in Pasadena, Calif. Foust later served Walker's predecessor, former National Park Service Director George L. Hartzog, as a special assistant for concessions, legislation and White House liaison.

In the 1972 presidential campaign, Walker "advanced" Mr. Nixon's travels while Foust joined the Committee for the Re-election of the President and was advance man for the travels of "surrogates"—Cabinet officers and others who campaigned on behalf of Mr. Nixon.

Walker confirmed that Foust's appointment had not been announced but said it was official. He said he wanted someone "from the outside to work with concessionaires, to alleviate any conflict of interest that might exist with a park service employee."