

SFChronicle

NOV 28 1974

Top Woman Quits As Aide to Ford

Washington

President Ford yesterday accepted the resignation of Anne Armstrong, highest ranking woman in his administration, and aides said other Nixon holdovers could be out of the cabinet by year's end.

Press secretary Ron Nessen, in announcing that Mrs. Armstrong was stepping down as a counselor to the President, said no successor would be named and he made little effort to dampen speculation that a major reshuffling of personnel would follow.

"We don't have any other personnel announcements today," Nessen said, adding a moment later: "We are just going to announce any cabinet changes when they are made."

Among those expected to resign are Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, Labor Secretary Peter J. Brennan, Health Education and Welfare Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, Budget Director Roy Ash and William Timmons, head of the White House Office for Congressional Relations.

Amidst the speculation, Mr. Ford spent most of his day working on legislative problems and the economy, particularly the budget for the next fiscal year, before a scheduled meeting with AFL-CIO president George Meany.

Nessen said the President invited Meany to the White House in the late afternoon to brief him on his just-concluded negotiations with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and especially a tentative agreement to limit nuclear weapons.

The session for Meany



ANNE ARMSTRONG
'Family responsibilities'

was considered unusual and Nessen said he knew of no plans for Mr. Ford to provide a similar personal reports to other individuals outside of government.

Mrs. Armstrong, whose \$42,500-a-year post carried cabinet-level rank, will leave it December 21. She told Mr. Ford in a letter of resignation that her action was necessary "because of unforeseen and pressing family responsibilities" at her home in Texas.

In a letter of reply, Mr. Ford told her that he was accepting her resignation "with the deepest regret" and that "you will be greatly missed at the White House."

Mrs. Armstrong, who was elevated to prominence by President Nixon two years ago, has had a variety of responsibilities ranging from programs for Spanish-speaking Americans to plans for celebration of the nation's 200th birthday in 1976.

She is a former co-chairman of the Republican National Committee and was a leading political spokeswoman for the Nixon administration.

United Press