

Budget Boss

Roy Ash
Resigns

Washington

The resignation of Roy L. Ash as director of the Office of Management and Budget was announced yesterday by the White House.

In his letter of resignation, the former president of Litton Industries pointed out that he had intended to serve in government for only two years and that period would be up next month.

President Ford, in accepting the resignation, praised Ash for keeping the federal budget "within reasonable proportions." He will leave in late January or early February, after completion of the new budget, and is scheduled to be succeeded by James T. Lynn, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Meanwhile, opposition was building among a group of conservative senators against White House plans to appoint Edward H. Levi, president of the University of Chicago, as attorney general.

Levi, a 62-year-old Democrat who would succeed Attorney General William B. Saxbe, would be the first member of the opposition party to be given a major post in Mr. Ford's administration. Saxbe is to be

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appointed ambassador to India.

Senators James O. Eastland (Dem - Miss.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Roman L. Hruska (Rep - Neb.) have expressed reservations about Levi's appointment because of his past association with liberal causes.

Levi met with White House officials in Washington yesterday and later conferred with both Eastland and Hruska.

Senator John G. Tower, chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, told reporters that there was "substantial opposition" in the Senate to Levi.

Noting that Levi had been a member of the Lawyer's Guild, Tower said: "The Lawyer's Guild was a very left-wing group and as one senator said to me, 'I can't see why we have to reach back into the cesspool of the New Deal to come up with an attorney general.' At least that is how some of the senators feel. I'm pretty neutral on the man. I don't know that much about him."

Tower said that Mr. Ford

"should be surrounded by people of his own political philosophy."

Mr. Ford has now replaced all of the major White House assistants since he became President on August 9 and plans to replace several, but not all, of the Nixon cabinet within the next few weeks.

Administration officials said it is likely that Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar would probably be the next cabinet member to leave. Both government officials and leaders in the private sector of transportation said Brinegar probably would be succeeded by John E. Robson, a Chicago lawyer who is a former under secretary of transportation.

Some administration sources said Mr. Ford was considering a moderate Republican with political experience to succeed Lynn as HUD secretary. Among those said by officials to have been under consideration are two retiring governors, Francis Sargent of Massachusetts and Tom McCall of Oregon.

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