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**Reagan Expresses Shock
At Ouster of Schlesinger**

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—Ronald Reagan said today that he was "shocked" by the Ford Administration's dismissal of Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger.

The conservative former Governor of California, campaigning in Florida in what appear to be final preparations for a formal challenge against President Ford for the Republican Presidential nomination next year, said in a telephone interview that he was not satisfied that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had dropped his "second hat" as the head of the National Security Council.

He expressed regret about the "shabby treatment" of Vice President Rockefeller, as he called it, which he surmised had driven the Vice President to take himself out of the running for renomination next summer.

Decision Held Unaffected

But in sum, Mr. Reagan said, the turbulence within the Ford Administration during the last 48 hours will have no important effect on the decision about running, which Mr. Reagan said again he will make before the end of this month.

"I'm certainly not appeased," he said, laughing off the speculation that some of the White House maneuvers were somehow designed to undercut the conservative threat to the Ford presidency.

Asked earlier today to define his intentions, he told students at Boca Raton College, "On a scale of 1 to 10, I'm about 9." When he finishes his current speaking tour on Nov. 20, he said, "I'm going to take a deep breath, look at the ceiling and make my decision."

Mr. Reagan declined to reassess President Ford's leadership in the light of the latest developments today, citing the Republicans' "11th Commandment" not to speak ill of their own party members.

But in Washington, John Sears, staff director of the plans for Reagan Committee, was not so reticent. "The quality of leadership we're being assured against begins to deteriorate every day," Mr. Sears said.

Mr. Reagan commented that the dismissal of Secretary Schlesinger had significant implications on the policy differences he seeks to exploit against the President. Mr. Reagan shared Mr. Schlesinger's criticism about détente with the Soviet Union and China and his concern about the adequacy of the military budget. "I hope the reasons for [Mr. Schlesinger's dismissal] are going to be explained," Mr. Reagan commented. "I can only say I thought he took a position of reason and common sense as to the defense posture of the nation. He was the most

articulate voice of that position in the Administration."

Mr. Reagan said that while he had criticized Secretary Kissinger's double duty at the National Security Council and the State Department, "that was not a great issue." Noting that Mr. Kissinger's successor at the Security Council would be his personal protégé, Lieut. Gen. Brent C. Scowcroft of the Air Force, he added, "I don't see the manner of the change has necessarily changed anything."

An aide to Mr. Reagan commented more bluntly, "The crux of the issue is not the two hats but Kissinger's position in the Government."

"It certainly sounds as if Henry's consolidated his position," he went on, "Henry took off his second hat and handed it to a cat's paw aide."

Mr. Reagan also minimized the political significance of Mr. Rockefeller's decision not to run for Vice President even though Mr. Rockefeller has been a favorite target of Mr. Reagan's conservative supporters recently, as in years past. He said, speaking for those, in interest is the conduct of the Presidency. Mr. Rockefeller's bitterest enemies may find a way now to support Mr. Ford, Mr. Reagan observed; Mr. Rockefeller's strongest supporters will be disappointed.



United Press International

Ronald Reagan before a meeting with students yesterday at a college in Boca Raton, Fla.