

Ford's Labor Secretary Reportedly Resigns

Washington

Secretary of Labor John T. Dunlop submitted his resignation to President Ford late yesterday, informed sources said, because he felt his effectiveness had been undermined when Mr. Ford reneged on a promise to sign a bill sought by organized labor.

The sources said that the President, in a private White House meeting, tried to talk Dunlop out of quitting. The

secretary held firm in his decision to resign, but said he will remain in his post until January 31.

The formal announcement of the resignation is expected today.

White House officials confirmed only that Mr. Ford and Dunlop met for 35 minutes, but they refused to provide details.

Press Secretary Ron Nessen, under questioning, by reporters, acknowledged in early evening

that Dunlop had asked to meet with Mr. Ford.

"It was a private meeting. I can't say anything more," Nessen said.

Speculation on a successor to Dunlop has focused on W. J. Usery Jr., director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, who is held in high regard by both labor and management.

Dunlop's resignation had been expected since Mr. Ford an-

nounced before Christmas that he would veto a bill that would have increased construction-site picketing power for unions.

Dunlop supported the legislation and had earlier won Mr. Ford's endorsement of it. When he vetoed the bill, Mr. Ford conceded it had contained everything he asked for when he promised to sign it. But he said he had changed his mind, saying it would lead to chaos in the construction industry.

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