

U.S. HEALTH AIDE IS OUT IN DISPUTE

Finch Says He Ousted Yolles,
Who Contends He Quit—
Administration Rebuked
JUN 3 1970

By RICHARD D. LYONS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 2—Robert H. Finch, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, announced today that he had dismissed Dr. Stanley Yolles, the Government's chief mental health official.

Dr. Yolles, however, said that he had resigned and charged the Nixon Administration with what he called the "abandonment of the mentally ill."

Dr. Yolles, who has been director of the National Institute of Mental Health and Assistant Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for five years, also complained in a three-page letter about what he described as the Administration's "lack of commitment to supporting mental health services for children," the "sharp curtailment" of research support, the "drastic curtailment" of mental health professionals and the "substitution of rhetoric for monetary support in Federal drug abuse and alcohol control programs."

Mr. Finch, in a statement issued tonight, called Dr. Yolles's letter "intemperate" and said the allegations were "without foundation."

"Furthermore," Mr. Finch said, "Dr. Yolles has consistently shown a complete unwill-

Continued on Page 34, Column 3

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1970

U.S. Mental Health Aide Dismissed

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

ingness to cooperate in this department's planning for more effective mental health programs."

"Rarely, if ever," Mr. Finch continued, "did he deign to participate or communicate with others in the department's efforts to bring better health to the mentally ill."

Mr. Finch said Dr. Yolles would be replaced by Dr. Berttram Brown, Dr. Yolles's deputy.

Dr. Yolles said that he "differed from this Administration" on what he described as the "encroachment of the Department of Justice as the final authority in medical determinations" and "the introduction of partisan, political considerations in the appointment of individuals to scientific positions within the Federal Government."

According to sources close to Dr. Yolles, he was forced to resign under pressure from Presidential aides in the White House. His immediate superior, Dr. Joseph T. English, resigned last month under similar circumstances.

Dr. English, who had been administrator of the Health Services and Mental Health Administration, of which the National Institute of Mental Health is a part, is known to feel that his resignation was demanded for political reasons. Dr. English will become head of the new City Hospitals Corporation in New York.

Sources in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare said two other high Government medical officials may be leaving Federal service soon: Dr. Robert Q. Marston, director of the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Irving J. Lewis, Dr. English's deputy.

Dr. Roger O. Egeberg, Assistant Secretary of H.E.W. for Health and Scientific Affairs, the nation's top health official, is reported to be fighting to keep Dr. Marston and Dr. Lewis in their positions.

Dr. Egeberg announced today the appointment of three deputy assistant secretaries, positions that have been vacant since the start of the Nixon Administration. The appointees are Dr. Thomas C. Points, who will be concerned with health services; Dr. Leroy A. Pesch, who will deal with



The New York Times

Dr. Stanley F. Yolles

health manpower, and Gerald R. Riso, who will be involved with policy implementation.

Dr. Points is an associate professor at the Oklahoma University School of Medicine in Oklahoma City. Dr. Pesch is dean of the University of Buffalo Medical School in Buffalo, and Mr. Riso is a vice president of Booz, Allen & Hamilton, Inc., a management consultant corporation in New York.

At a news conference announcing the appointments, Dr. Egeberg said he believed that the "resignation pressure" in the department would decline in the next few months. But he did not mention the letter he had received from Dr. Yolles.

In an interview, Dr. Yolles contended that the "Government is in a terrible situation in health" and said that "no-

one in the Administration pays attention to professional advice."

Amplifying on his letter of resignation—actually a request for retirement in November—Dr. Yolles said that the Hospital Improvement program, "which has brought about major improvements in the nation's mental institutions, has been marked as obsolete and is to be eliminated."

The Community Mental Health Centers program will start no new centers this year, he maintained, adding that, "because of the money shortage, we may not be able to support those that have been started."

"Drug abuse is one of the nation's major problems," Dr. Yolles continued, "yet the total increase in Federal funds for treatment programs next year will be \$1.9-million. It had been \$8-million. Yet I now have \$18-million worth of valid requests for the support of treatment centers."

In his letter of resignation, he said: "During the past year it has become very clear to me that there are totally fundamental and basic differences between my philosophy, hopes, aspirations and goals for the national mental health program and those of this Administration. These differences have become insurmountable."

"I have argued my case within the Administration and on occasion have even spoken out publicly as a private citizen when I felt the issue to be of national importance," he added. "This lack of confidence between the Administration and myself is not in the best interests of the mentally ill or those of the scientific community."