

# NEW H.E.W. HEAD CALLS SELECTION 'OUT OF THE BLUE'

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Richardson Reports Rogers  
Told Him Only 24 Hours  
Before Announcement

## AN APPEAL TO STUDENTS

Commencement Talk Asks  
More Understanding About  
Nation's Foreign Policies

By RICHARD D. LYONS

Special to The New York Times

LOWELL, Mass., June 7—  
Elliot L. Richardson said today  
that his selection by President  
Nixon as the new Secretary of  
Health, Education and Welfare  
had been a complete surprise.

"It was right out of the blue,"  
said Mr. Richardson, who will  
leave his post as Under Secre-  
tary of State to head H.E.W.

According to Mr. Richardson,  
the first news of his impending  
nomination had come from Sec-  
retary of State William P. Rog-  
ers less than 24 hours before  
the public announcement by  
Mr. Nixon that Robert H. Finch  
was to be replaced as H.E.W.  
Secretary.

Mr. Richardson said the Pres-  
ident made the formal offer of  
the secretaryship late Friday  
afternoon, less than 24 hours  
before the offer was announced  
at the White House.

### Speaks at Commencement

Mr. Richardson made these  
remarks at a news conference  
at the Lowell Technological In-  
stitute, where he had arrived  
from Washington to deliver the  
commencement address and ac-  
cept an honorary degree of  
doctor of science.

In his address to the 611  
persons receiving degrees and  
several thousand guests, Mr.  
Richardson pleaded with the  
older generation to be more  
tolerant of the opinions of  
youth and with the nation's  
younger people to be more un-  
derstanding of the foreign poli-  
cies of their Government.

Mr. Richardson, who will be  
supervising the Government's  
main education department,  
seemed to be extending an  
olive branch from the Nixon  
Administration to the nation's  
college students, many of  
whom have been critical of  
many Administration policies.

Conciliatory in tone and

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## RICHARDSON CALLS CHOICE A SURPRISE

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content, the speech differed  
sharply from those for which  
Vice President Agnew, for ex-  
ample, has become noted.

Mr. Richardson cautioned  
young people not to dismiss  
"historical experience," such as  
Czechoslovakia in 1948, as be-  
ing "simply not relevant" to the  
affairs of today.

Mr. Richardson said there  
had been a "generational dif-  
ference" in this nation over the  
course and conduct of foreign  
affairs. "I firmly believe, none-  
theless, that these disagree-  
ments can be resolved," he  
said. The Administration, he  
said, has been listening to  
youth.

### Pledges an Open Door

"I assure you that my own  
door will still be open when I  
move to my new assignment  
at the Department of Health,  
Education and Welfare," he  
said, adding:

"I fully intend to follow the  
example of Secretary Finch in  
maintaining an open line of  
communications with young  
people."

At his news conference, Mr.  
Richardson said: "I am not in  
a position to give answers to  
questions about H.E.W. I don't  
have any anyway. I haven't  
had time to become familiar  
with the department."

He said he had discussed the  
problems at H.E.W. with Mr.  
Nixon and Mr. Finch but "only  
in a very preliminary way."

Mr. Richardson said of his  
nomination that it was the po-  
sition in which the President  
felt that I could be of greatest  
service."

"I felt as a public servant  
that I had only one course be-  
fore me—to accept the assign-  
ment," he added.

Mr. Richardson said that  
even though he had educated  
himself "toward problems of  
foreign policy" in his six-month  
tenure at the State Depart-  
ment, he felt qualified for the  
H.E.W. secretaryship because  
of his experience as Under  
Secretary during the 1950's  
under the Eisenhower Adminis-  
tration.

In his address, Mr. Richard-  
son warned that acceptance of  
what he called such "simplistic  
slogans" as "no more Viet-  
nams" could lead to a new and  
harmful isolationism within  
the United States.

Addressing himself more to  
the young people of the whole  
country than to just those  
gathered on the campus of this  
little New England mill town,  
Mr. Richardson said:

"You tend to assume that  
the fear of Communist aggres-  
sion and expansionism that has  
dominated our strategic think-  
ing is no longer warranted.

"You believe that the ideo-  
logical differences between  
Communism and what we call  
the free world are seldom  
really meaningful or critical.

"You insist that peace is  
divisible—that what happens  
in distant parts of the world  
such as Southeast Asia has no  
palpable effect on the security  
of the United States."

Mr. Richardson said the  
foreign policies of the Nixon  
Administration "seek to sub-  
stitute partnership for domina-  
tion, normal contacts for old  
enmities, and negotiated agree-  
ments for situations of ten-  
sion."

Mr. Finch, the outgoing Sec-  
retary of Health, Education and  
Welfare, is becoming an ad-  
viser to the President with the  
title of counselor. Because of  
many controversies, he was  
under severe pressure during  
his 16 months as Secretary,  
and his departure from the  
Cabinet—the first Cabinet  
change in the Nixon Adminis-  
tration—had been rumored for  
some time.