

Nixon Reported Planning Major Changes in Cabinet

Hickel, Kennedy and Hardin Expected to Depart by January—A Reshuffling of White House Staff Also Foreseen

By WARNER WEAVER Jr. NOV 19 1970
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 — President Nixon was reported today to be planning a major reshuffling of his Cabinet and the White House staff before the second half of his term begins next January.

Among the Cabinet officers expected to depart are Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Treasury David M. Kennedy and Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin.

Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Hardin are understood to be ready to depart amicably because of a mutual agreement with the President that both they and the Administration could profit by the addition of some new faces to the Nixon Cabinet.

Secretary Hickel may be a different proposition. He has criticized the Administration as reluctant to consider the views of young people, and there is no assurance that he will not resist attempts to replace him.

Mr. Hickel complained in a letter to Mr. Nixon last May that the Administration was turning its back on the great mass of American youth and thereby contributing to anarchy

and revolt. The letter was considered blunt in view of the fact that Mr. Hickel is a subordinate serving at the pleasure of the President.

Under consideration to succeed Secretary Kennedy is Gabriel Hauge, president of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, who was a White House economic adviser in the Eisenhower Administration.

Two others are reported to be out of the running for the Treasury post. They are David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, and Representative George Bush, a Republican who lost the Texas Senate race two weeks ago. Mr. Bush is expected to receive another Federal appointment.

Among those under consideration for the Interior position is Representative Rogers C. B. Morton of Maryland, the Republican national chairman. He was interested in the post when President Nixon first picked his Cabinet and is reported to prefer it still to his political job.

If the party chairmanship

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becomes vacant, it will probably be filled by either Robert H. Finch, the former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, who is now a counselor to the President, or Donald Rumsfeld, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and assistant to the President.

Despite some rumors to the contrary, there is no immediate prospect that Attorney General John N. Mitchell, Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans or Secretary of Housing and Urban Development George Romney will leave the Cabinet.

If Mr. Mitchell should leave the Administration to manage President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign, the move is not likely to come for at least a year. Mr. Rogers is reported unlikely to leave the State Department unless a vacancy should open on the Supreme Court.

In the background of the expected Cabinet changes are the President's problems put in the spotlight by the election: the national economy and the unpopularity of the Administration's farm program.

White House Changes

Several departures from the White House staff are expected before the end of the year. Bryce Harlow and Daniel P. Moynihan, counselors to the President; James Keogh, head of the White House speech-writing team, and Harry Fleming, Presidential assistant for personnel, may be among those leaving.

The transfer of John D. Er-

lichman, assistant to the President, to another major post in the Administration remains a possibility. Two other Presidential assistants, H. R. Haldeman and Henry A. Kissinger, the national security authority, are currently regarded as fixtures.

Among the Republican election losers who are likely to get major Administration appointments are Representative Clark MacGregor of Minnesota, who was defeated by Senator-elect Hubert H. Humphrey, and Gov.

Norbert T. Tiemann of Nebraska.

As for Vice President Agnew, the best available information is that no final decision will be reached as to keeping him on the 1972 Republican ticket until sometime early in that election year.

While few leading Republicans foresee a change in the ticket, some clearly hold open the possibility that President Nixon may find it politically advisable to choose another running mate.