

3d G.O.P. Loser in Line for Appointment

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Thomas Kleppe of North Dakota may be No. 3 on the list of lame duck Republican Representatives given jobs by President Nixon after failing in bids for the Senate.

Representative Kleppe, who was defeated by Senator Quentin Burdick, confirmed yesterday that he had been offered the top post in the Small Business Administration.

If Mr. Kleppe does move into the S.B.A., that would leave three more men who, like him, vacated safe House seats to carry the Administration's banner in Senate races and wound up in an elite unemployment line.

They are Laurence J. Burton of Utah, John Wold of Wyoming and William C. Cramer of Florida.

President Nixon earlier this month named Representative George Bush of Texas as chief United States delegate to the United Nations and made Representative Clark MacGregor, the man who faced Hubert Humphrey, chief White House lobbyist.

Representative Cramer is thought to be in line for a Federal judgeship. Mr. Burton and Mr. Wold are considered candidates for high posts in the Interior Department, although they must wait first for the Senate confirmation of Representative Rogers C. B. Morton of Maryland as secretary. Mr. Burton, meanwhile, has been offered an interim job as consultant to the Department of Transportation.

In another reordering of resumes at the White House, the name of Charles W. Colson, a special counsel to President Nixon, was reported to have

been placed high on the list of contenders to replace Representative Morton as Republican National Chairman.

The Washington Evening Star said Mr. Colson was the front-runner, and that Senator Robert J. Dole of Kansas appeared to be out. The Star noted that Mr. Colson had had a hand in controversial election advertisements against eight Democratic Senators, ads that ran in 80 newspapers around the nation.

Report Called Overdrawn

White House sources characterized the report that Mr. Colson was now the favorite as overdrawn, and said that Mr. Dole was very much in the running.

Mr. Kleppe, a former Mayor of Bismarck, N.D., said he was sure that the Small Business Administration job had been offered other people since Hilary Sandoval Jr. resigned last month.

Although Mr. Kleppe emphasized that he did not know for certain he will get the S.B.A. post, he seemed clearly enthusiastic.

"The S.B.A. has an opportunity to really function, really fill a need in the American economy: to keep small businesses in the economy, help them grow and create jobs," he said.

A Republican Representative defeated in a Congressional primary this year was appointed to a position in the Interior Department's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

The Representative, Glenn Cunningham of Nebraska, will be a special assistant to the bureau director, G. Douglas Hofe Jr. He will advise Mr. Hofe on Congressional matters, analyze

and review legislation and provide liaison with state and local government agencies. His salary has not yet been determined.