

Weinberger Is Confirmed; Nixon's Cabinet Complete

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—The Senate completed approval of President Nixon's new Cabinet today by confirming the nomination of Caspar W. Weinberger to be Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

But 10 Senate Democrats voted against the confirmation in an angry gesture of protest against the Administration's spending priorities. The vote on the nomination was 61 to 10.

In long speeches preceding the roll-call vote, Senators Harold E. Hughes of Iowa and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts expressed doubt that Mr. Weinberger, who had been director of the Office of Management and Budget and thus the architect of the spending plans, could serve the interests of the poor, the aged and the unschooled in his new post.

Mr. Hughes said that he did not believe that Mr. Weinberger could "make the transition from budget hatchet man to advocate of people programs."

A 'Ruthless Reduction'

Senator Kennedy, describing the President's proposed budget for the fiscal year 1974 as a "ruthless reduction of this Government's commitment to its social obligations," said that he, too, was concerned that social needs "will go unmet" under Mr. Weinberger's tenure.

The Senate, traditionally reluctant to deny any President his choice of Cabinet officers, consented to the nomination despite the misgivings.

"He's a Cabinet officer and not a judge," Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York told his colleagues in expressing "hope" that Mr. Weinberger would become an advocate of society's less fortunate.

Senator Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, said that he expected to differ with Mr. Weinberger on domestic priorities, but that he respected the new Secretary as "a problem solver, a pragmatic man."

"That's exactly what we need in this huge agency that he will administer," Mr. Perry added.

Other Developments

As Congress prepared to adjourn for a Lincoln's birthday rest, there were the following other developments in the continuing dispute with the White House over the power of the Federal purse:

¶All 13 new members of the Senate, four of them Republican and the others Democrats, signed a letter to Senate leaders of both parties urging prompt action on proposals for Congress to reform its own budgetary process.

¶As if in response to the Senate freshmen, Senators Percy, Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, and Harry F. Boyd Jr., independent of Virginia, introduced legislation to create new budget committees in the Senate and House. The committees would have over-all annual spending ceiling and coordinating authorization and responsibility for setting an appropriation bills by various Congressional panels.

¶Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, complained in a Senate speech that the Administration had made an "unacceptable accounting" of its reasons for

refusing to spend more than \$8-billion that Congress had appropriated for the current fiscal year, ending June 30. He said that a report submitted by the White House earlier this week failed to specify, as required, how long the funds were to be impounded and what effect withholding them would have on the economy.

¶Senator J. W. Fulbright, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, introduced legislation to cut off the foreign aid program unless the President released, by April 30, funds withheld from farm, highway, housing, health and education programs.

Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, one of the 10 Demo-

crats who voted against Mr. Weinberger's nomination, said in a statement that he had done so because the Administration was "ignoring the Congress' constitutional power over appropriations."

In addition to Senators Hughes, Kennedy, Humphrey and Muskie, the following Democrats voted against Mr. Weinberger: Senators Joseph R. Biden Jr., of Delaware, Dick Clark of Iowa, William D. Hathaway of Maine, Lee Metcalf of Montana, Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin and Harrison A. Williams Jr. of New Jersey.

None of them challenged Mr. Weinberger's qualifications, but Senators Hughes and Kennedy bluntly questioned the Administration's philosophy on social

programs that Mr. Weinberger would, in their view, represent in the Government's most socially oriented department.

The 1974 budget, which Mr. Weinberger prepared, "represents an abandonment of our efforts to help those least able to help themselves—our children, our aged, our sick," Mr. Hughes said. He called the spending proposal "a callous, computer-produced budget which cannot relate to the problems of individual human beings."

Senator Kennedy belittled the President's call for self-reliance, the keynote of Mr. Nixon's second inaugural address, saying, "I do not believe that 'self-sufficiency' means we are free to wash



Associated Press

Caspar W. Weinberger

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