

# Sharp Criticism Greeted Nixon Agriculture Choice

Robert W. Long, head of the agricultural operations for the Bank of America, confirmed yesterday that he will be nominated by President Nixon "this week" as an assistant secretary of agriculture.

The 50-year-old Palo Alto resident — rumored to be in line for the job in the past few weeks — made the confirmation after the impending appointment was sharply criticized.

Long said he will direct the department's conservation forestry, research and education services.

The functions total about \$1.3 billion in the Nixon budget for the next fiscal year. The subcabinet appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

## REPORT

The criticism was contained in a report by the Agribusiness Accountability Project, a group investigating farm policy.

In a 15-page background paper on the bank executive, the group described Long as a "kingpin of agribusiness

## Daylight Savings Push

### Washington

Representative Stewart B. McKinney (Rep-Conn.) said yesterday he has introduced legislation to put the United States on year-round daylight savings time.

McKinney said expansion of daylight savings time would cut street crime, cut the number of auto accidents and reduce energy consumption at peak times by 5 per cent.

United Press

finance" who has "the narrow vision of a financial technician."

The project has issued reports on the agriculture department's activities before, including one last fall critical of grain sales to the Soviet Union.

The Long paper was prepared in cooperation with the Center for New Corpo-

rate Priorities in Los Angeles and the Center for Rural Studies in San Francisco. The project was financed by the Marshall Field Foundation, a spokesman said.

### SMALL

The reports also said Long has shown little sympathy toward small, family-type farmers and called on the Senate to probe fully into his nomination.

"It is fair to ask why a big-city banker should be named assistant secretary of agriculture, and it is essential to demand reasonable assurances that rural people and consumers are not being sold out," the report said.

Long said the authors of the report were "badly informed on my background and I reject completely their statements." He said the study group "has a certain radical background with which I don't agree."

"They can say whatever they like, none of which is true. You could spend all day defending yourself against these allegations," Long said.

### ANSWER

He declined to make specific answers to the charges.

The project's report said Long holds a big business view of agricultural problems and added his choice by President Nixon raises questions over the directions of future farm policy.

Before joining the Bank of America as a senior vice



ROBERT W. LONG  
B of A executive

president in 1967, Long worked for the Irvine Co. in southern California for 20 years.

"Originally a farming operation, the Irvine Co. evolved during Long's tenure to become primarily involved in land speculation and development," the report said.

"As the Irvine Co. became less and less involved in farming its lands, it grew more and more adept at reaping government subsidies. It holds land for commercial development and speculation, but it avoids proper taxation on those holdings by placing the land under the tax classification 'agricultural preserve,'" the report stated.

The paper also said Long "has sought to influence legislation and press for public water policies designed to serve agribusiness needs rather than those of smaller farmers."

Long denied the comments, saying, "these statements are untrue." He declined to elaborate.