

Weinberger Plans To Stay at HEW

By Earl C. Behrens
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Caspar W. Weinberger plans to stay right where he is in President Nixon's cabinet, neither running for governor nor joining the mid-term procession of official Washingtonians returning to private life.

There have been reports that seem to survive in spite of denials that Weinberger would leave his job as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and run as the Republican candidate for governor in 1974.

In discussing the rumors, Weinberger posed what he himself recognized as an impossible condition for his re-entry into elective politics. He would run, he said, only if all the present Republican contenders agreed to withdraw from the race and settle on him as the "unity" candidate.

Predictably, the responses came promptly.

At a dinner for State Treasurer Ivy Baker Priest, the one holder of statewide office currently planning to run

for re-election next year, word came from two of the three leading Republicans campaigning for governor. Both Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke and Controller Houston I. Flounoy made it clear they had no intention of stepping aside.

Both would like unity, of course. But if there is to be any unity, they prefer to have it center around them.

Nor has Attorney General Evelle J. Younger any intention of stepping aside for Weinberger, whom he is confident he could defeat in an open primary.

During his recent visit to California, Weinberger took pains to scotch rumors that he wants to leave the huge agency he directs in Washington. While some cabinet members are clearly headed out, Weinberger feels he has barely begun to tackle the problems of HEW.

Before going to Washington to join the Nixon administration, Weinberger served as an Assemblyman from San Francisco, State Republican chairman and State Finance Director in Governor Ronald Reagan's administration.

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