

Mathews Confirmed for H.E.W.

F. David Mathews, president of the University of Alabama, was confirmed yesterday in a voice vote by the Senate as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. The 39-year-old Dr. Mathews succeeds Caspar W. Weinberger, who is resigning for personal reasons. Dr. Mathews, who has described his new post as "hard and often thankless," was the youngest person to head a major university when he was named president of the 13,000-student University of Alabama in 1969.

Meanwhile, President Ford announced that he would nominate Martin R. Hoffman, general counsel of the Defense Department and a career Government lawyer, as secretary of the Army. If confirmed, the 43-year-old Mr. Hoffman would succeed Howard H. Callaway, who has become the President's campaign manager.

"It's going to shock a few people," says Elizabeth Taylor about her tell-all autobiography. Miss Taylor is negotiating with W. H. Allen, the British publishing company, about publication of the book, but no contract has yet been signed. Reports from London say that the image the 43-year-old, five-times-married actress is trying to project is that of an erudite, literary, humorous and experienced woman.

Rose Kennedy spent a quiet 85th birthday yesterday at her home in Hyannis Port, Mass. She began the day, as she always does, by attending mass at St. Francis Xavier Church. Her daughter,

Eunice Shriver, and her daughter-in-law, Ethel Kennedy, were reported to be in the family compound, but the birthday celebration itself is being held off until Saturday so that Senator Edward M. Kennedy can attend.

"Mr. Nixon had a trait of being almost boyish about the Presidency," writes David Eisenhower, former President Nixon's son-in-law, in the August issue of *McCall's*. "He had a hard time believing where he was. He was so excited about it that he shared it with me, almost carelessly. He invited you to be a decision-maker, to play the game."

Mr. Eisenhower says that the family always discussed Watergate "very objectively and dispassionately." He says the President "spoke of it, well, in a kind of third-person way, as if it was some-down the street."

Approved: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously endorsed yesterday the nomination of Walter Curley as Ambassador to Ireland. Mr. Curley, 54, is president of the Curley Land Company in Pittsburgh and a partner in the New York law firm of J. H. Whitney & Co.

Brigitte Bardot was reported yesterday as "red all over" with anger over recent British press reports that she is pregnant and plans to marry her boy friend, the actor Miroslav Brozek. "I am not pregnant," Miss Bardot said in St. Tropez. "And I regret it." In a terse state-

ment to the French press she denied all the reports about her private life and marriage plans.

Erica Jong, author of the best seller, "Fear of Flying," has filed a \$10-million damage suit seeking to halt production of a movie based on the book. She said that the director of the film, Julia Phillips, was not qualified to handle the movie. Miss Jong says she still owns the movie rights even though she entered a verbal agreement with Miss Phillips and Columbia Pictures.

C. G. Rebozo and Robert H. Abplanalp, the two close friends of former President Nixon, have undertaken a new business venture—coconut trees. When the Dade County (Fla.) Commission imposed a building freeze that prevents them from building on an acre of land behind Mr. Rebozo's bank, the two men decided to plant 52,000 Malayan dwarf coconut seedlings there. When the seedlings outgrow that plot, they will be transferred to a 7.5-acre plot owned jointly by both men that is assessed at \$1.26-million and is also included in the building moratorium.

Unhurt: Former King Idris of Libya, after his car overturned on the Cairo-Alexandria highway. The driver for the 76-year-old former monarch apparently lost control of the car and collided with another vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. King Idris, who was overthrown by a military coup in 1969, lives in exile in Cairo.