

Packard To Head Pentagon?

WASHINGTON — (CDN) — Three names — David Packard, John Connally, and Kenneth Rush — figure in the speculation on possible successors to Elliot Richardson as Defense Secretary.

Of the three, Packard, of Palo Alto, Calif, who served as deputy defense secretary from Jan. 24, 1969, to Dec. 13, 1971, is believed to be the man most likely to get the call from President Nixon.

The President opened up the top Pentagon job when he decided to move Richardson to the Justice Department to replace Richard Kleindienst, who resigned as attorney general.

Another Task

With pressure building over the Watergate scandal, it was important to the President to move a man into Justice who could supervise the investigation of the case without the burden of having close ties with persons who may be implicated in it.

But in doing so Nixon has given himself the task of finding a man big enough for the important Pentagon post who is willing to accept it.

Kenneth Rush knows the Pentagon. When Packard left, Rush served as deputy defense secretary from the end of 1971 to January 1973. At that time, the former U.S. ambassador to Germany was moved over to the

—See Back Page, Col. 4

—From Page 1

State Department as an undersecretary.

It was reported at the time that the Administration felt Rush would fit in better at state than the Pentagon. In view of that, it does not seem probable that he would be moved back now to the top Pentagon job — unless the President ran into difficulties getting someone else to take it.

The Texan

John Connally, the swash-buckling Texan who served Nixon for a time as Treasury secretary, is well acquainted with the Pentagon from a previous hitch as Navy secretary. The President is known to have a high regard for him.

It is generally believed, however, that Connally would not consider anything except being secretary of state — a post that would help him on his way to a possible presidential nomination in 1976.

David Packard, who made a fortune of \$300 million in the manufacture of electronic devices, left the Pentagon at the end of 1971 with the reputation of having been one of the most capable managers ever to serve in it.

Laird Support

He was recruited for the No. 2 post by then Defense chief Melvin Laird and he is understood to have Laird's backing for the No. 1 position now. He is known to be enjoying private life and not hankering for a return to Washington but it is thought that he would take the job if the President pressed him.

He had no trouble winning Senate confirmation before, as he put his \$300 million worth of stock in a trust and pledged to give to charity at the end of his stay here whatever sum the stock gained in value.

He ended up giving away



DAVID PACKARD

To succeed Richardson?

\$22 million after he left the Pentagon. It is reported that one reason he left when he did was that he foresaw the possibility of having to give away a much larger sum if he stayed on the job.

He would have no problem putting his stock back in trust now, it is understood, since it apparently has leveled off after its spectacular climb.

Jill to Remain At White House

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Mrs. Jill Ruckelshaus, whose husband has been named acting FBI chief, has gotten approval to keep her part-time White House job.

Mrs. Ruckelshaus had asked her husband, William D. Ruckelshaus, for a legal opinion on whether there was a conflict of interest with her position in the White House and his at the Justice Department. A spokesman said he gave her the go-ahead to stay on at the White House.

Mrs. Ruckelshaus is in charge of women's affairs in the office of presidential counselor Anne Armstrong.