

Nixon Papers Figure Resigns

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Edward L. Morgan, who as a White House aide handled President Nixon's gift of papers to the National Archives, resigned yesterday.

Morgan said his resignation was prompted in part by the controversy surrounding the deed of the papers and the embarrassment caused the President.

Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz announced the resignation, although Morgan was nominated for the post by the President and the White House normally makes such announcements.

Asked if the White House requested Morgan's resignation, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren replied: "No, of course not."

When Morgan was asked whether his resignation stemmed from the role he played in the controversial deed of papers and the large tax write-off Mr. Nixon claimed, he said:

"It's not directly related, but I can't say it's totally unrelated. Of course, I feel badly about it; it's something I'm clearly involved in, and I'm giving the President another problem."

When questioned about that problem, he said that "if he (the President) is go-

ing to have to pay considerable tax, it's a problem.

"Obviously, I'm questioning what I did," Morgan continued. He said he knows now he did not have authority to sign the deed turning over the President's papers to the government, but that he did not know it at the time.

Some of the papers were given to the archives before the law was changed on July 25, 1969, and some after. Congress passed a bill making such gifts no longer eligible for tax deductions after the July date.

Morgan admitted last year that White House aides lobbied Congress in 1969 to pre-

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Edward L. Morgan: "Of course, I feel badly about it."

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vent it from passing the law preventing public officials, writers and artists from taking tax deductions for gifts of their work to the government or to university libraries.

Morgan was then deputy counsel to the President. He said last year he did not remember who, if anyone, authorized him to sign the papers on behalf of the President.

"I don't know whether someone told me I had the authority or I assumed I had the authority," Morgan said.

Morgan would not say yesterday whether he signed the deed prior to the cutoff date. He also declined to say whether he now believes the President owes additional taxes.

Morgan has appeared in secret session before the staff of the congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, which is checking the Nixon tax returns at the President's request.

The donated papers from his vice presidential days were valued by an appraiser employed by the President at about \$576,000, which resulted in a tax saving to the President of about \$200,000.

Secretary Shultz said he "deeply" regretted Morgan's departure from the Treasury, where he showed "great competence and leadership."

Earlier in the day, Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania said after a meeting with the President that Mr. Nixon would speak out from time to time on Watergate and have more regular press conferences.

Scott said he believed that there is "information on the tapes prior to" March 21, 1973, which "supports the President's position and does not support the position of the only witness against him in those matters."

The reference was to former counsel John W. Dean III, who accused the President of being actively involved in the Watergate cover-up.

When Scott was asked what he based his belief on, he said, "It is based on more than a personal feeling. Further the deponent sayeth not, not wishing to be subpoenaed."

Capitol Hill sources said Scott has not listened to any of the tapes but has had extensive briefings at the White House on Watergate and related matters.

Nixon to Nominate New Ambassadors

President Nixon intends to nominate Nancy B. Rawls to be ambassador to the Republic of Togo, Thomas W. McElhiney to be envoy to Ethiopia and L. Douglas Heck as ambassador to Niger, the White House said yesterday.

Miss Rawls, a native of Clearwater, Fla., would succeed Dwight Dickinson, who has retired from the diplomatic corps. She has been director of policy planning in the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs since 1971.

McElhiney also a veteran Foreign Service officer, would succeed E. Ross Adair, who has resigned from the Ethiopian post.

Heck, another career diplomat, has been deputy chief of mission in Iran since 1970. In the Republic of Niger, he would succeed Roswell McClelland, who has retired.