

# Ford's First Job-- Organizing a Staff

Washington

President Ford put off the choice of a vice president until next week and plunged yesterday into the task of recruiting and organizing a White House staff.

Mr. Ford asked all members of former President Nixon's senior staff, including chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr., to remain in their jobs for now, but he also signaled clearly that he intends a major changeover as time moves along.

The President's newly appointed press secretary, Jerald F. (Jerry) terHorst, disclosed that Mr. Ford has named four former colleagues from the House to direct the transition to a

new White House operation.

The "transition team," which held its first meeting with Mr. Ford late yesterday, includes:

- John O. Marsh Jr., a former four-term Democratic congressman from Virginia, who was the top Pentagon lobbyist for a year and joined Mr. Ford's vice presidential staff to handle defense and international security areas.

- Rogers C. B. Morton, a Republican congressman from Maryland from 1963 to 1971, when he was named Secretary of Interior — the post he still holds.

- Donald Rumsfeld, a four-term Republican congressman from Illinois who

was, successively, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, counselor to the President and director of the Cost of Living Council in the Nixon administration. Rumsfeld returned yesterday from his post as ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels.

- William W. Scranton, who was elected governor of Pennsylvania in 1962 after one term in the House, who tried unsuccessfully for the Republican presidential nomination in 1964 and who served as chairman of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest in 1970 and as a member of the Price Commission in 1971-72.

terHorst said the four-man team will serve as Mr. Ford's liaison in parceling out assignments temporarily among members of the old presidential and vice presidential staffs and make recommendations to him on a new White House staff structure.

The President has made it plain that he wants a smaller and less top-heavy operation than that which Mr. Nixon built up over the past five years.

Yesterday Ford named another former newsman, Robert T. Hartmann, as counselor to the President. Hartmann, the head of the Washington bureau of the Los Angeles Times from 1954 to 1964, joined Mr. Ford's house staff in 1966 and has been chief of staff of the vice presidential office. He is 57.

terHorst said Mr. Ford "has uppermost on his mind" his responsibility, under the same 25th Amendment procedure by which he became vice president, to nominate a new No. 2 man.

terHorst and others on the Ford staff intimated that choice would be delayed until after Monday night's televised address to Congress and the country, which is the main focus of the President's attention over the weekend.

terHorst said Mr. Ford had told congressional leaders, including House Speaker Carl Albert, now next in line to the presidency, that he hoped to send them his nominee "within a week or ten days."

The name of former New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller continued to dominate the speculation, as someone who met Mr. Ford's reported prime criteria of being an asset in a possible 1976 presidential campaign and possessing enough administrative skill and experience to help in the work of the administration.

Conservatives in Congress continued their drumbeat of opposition to a Rockefeller appointment, arguing that his role as the liberal champion in past intra-party disputes would make him a divisive choice.

About two dozen Republican senators and representatives met yesterday morning to organize their campaign against Rockefeller and agreed to endorse Senator Barry M. Goldwater, victor over Rockefeller in the bitter 1964 presidential nomination battle, as their own favorite.

Support for the two men developed on predictable lines. Senate minority leader Hugh Scott (Rep.-Pa.), a leader in Rockefeller's past presidential drives, said Rockefeller was his "No. 1 choice" for vice president.

House minority leader John J. Rhodes (Rep.-Ariz.) and California Governor Ronald Reagan, both conservatives, endorsed Goldwater, but Reagan conceded that, if he were asked to serve himself, he would consider it "a call to duty."

A number of House Republicans and state GOP officials began publicly promoting the cause of Republican National Chairman George Bush, who is also known to be more than willing to accept if asked.

Some longtime Ford associates believe he may choose his former House colleague, Melvin P. Laird, who began the Rockefeller-for-vice-president talk several days ago.

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