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# Cabinet Members Attempt To Smooth the Transition

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Cabinet secretaries sought to rally federal employees behind the new President yesterday in a series of memos and meetings which called for renewed vigor in tackling the government's problems.

"This is a day of great pathos for many," Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton told employees gathered in the department's auditorium yesterday morning. But it is now time to put "those long days of Watergate" behind and "go forward together," he said.

Morton, who accepted President Ford's offer of Thursday afternoon to remain as Secretary of the Interior and also work with him on transition problems, said government departments are in a "whole new ballgame."

"If there is a criticism I could make of years past," Morton said, it was allowing "a widening of the breach" between executive departments and Congress. He said the Ford administration will mark a new era of cooperation between those branches of government.

"There is a greater need than ever to demonstrate to all the people of this country that the inherent strength of this country is in its continuity," Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, told employees in the departmental auditorium. His remarks also were broadcast to 24 HEW branch offices.

In the changed environment of the new administration there is a "very good chance" of getting national health insurance passed by the Congress, Weinberger added.

At Defense, Secretary James R. Schlesinger held no mass meeting of employees, but sent out a terse message to military commands yesterday morning informing them that Ford was their new commander-in-chief.

"As President and commander-in-chief," messaged Schlesinger, "Mr. Ford will have, consistent with our best traditions, the fullest support, dedication and loyalty of all members of the Department of Defense."

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger held no meeting yesterday, either, but had told a meeting of his 100 top aides Thursday that President Nixon was going to resign and that departmental officers would work to help make the transition of power as smooth as possible.

At Agriculture, Secretary Earl Butz told an overflow meeting of employees that President Ford will continue the Nixon administration's policies of "getting government off the farm" and relying instead on the free market.

"I would anticipate no change whatever," Butz said in reference to national farm policy, because Mr. Ford "has been an integral part" of its development.

Butz said he will remain in his post for at least several months if Mr. Ford wants him to.

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brineagar has scheduled a meeting for Monday morning with department employees, and put to this short statement to them yesterday:

"Today's historic events once again demonstrated America's strength and greatness. I am proud to serve under President Ford and I have pledged to him full support of the Department of Transportation."

Brineagar has been asked to stay on and will do so.

Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan, in a memo drafted yesterday to be sent to employees Monday, called for new efforts to combat inflation, "We must all try to do a better job to make his task easier," Brennan said in reference to President Ford.

At the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary James T. Lynn commended employees for their support during "the unsettling months through which we have passed." He added, in a memorandum, "I know I can count on you to give your support to President Ford and to give your full energies..."

Lynn resumed a family vacation after attending the swearing-in ceremony at the White House and has had no discussions about his role in the Ford administration, a spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the General Services Administration began gearing up for the task of removing thousands of pictures of Mr. Nixon from the hallways and reception rooms of government buildings across the country.

Although pictures were already coming down at HEW, a GSA spokesman said the official removal job will begin Monday. Pictures hanging in employees' offices can stay or go at the decision of the occupants, a GSA spokesman said.

There is "no word yet" on the time when new pictures of President Ford will be available for hanging, he added.

At Treasury, Secretary William E. Simon reported to his senior aides that Mr. Ford had asked him to stay on in that position and that it would continue to be "business as usual."