

Rumsfeld Headed For the Pentagon



Jack Anderson

PRESIDENT FORD'S new staff chief, Donald Rumsfeld, won't be around the White House more than six months.

Sources in the President's confidence say he needed someone in a hurry to replace Alexander Haig, who had headed former President Nixon's White House staff.

The President, therefore, summoned Rumsfeld whom he actually had in mind to be the next Secretary of Defense. Our sources say Mr. Ford still intends to send the able Rumsfeld to preside over the Pentagon.

The President wanted to get rid of Haig, say our sources, because he held too tight a rein on the White House staff, which looked to him instead of Mr. Ford's people for their orders.

The President's plans for Rumsfeld, of course, means Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger will be dropped from the cabinet. This will be a victory of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who has been feuding with Schlesinger over foreign-military policy.

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ABOUT 180 welfare officials gathered on exotic Frenchman's Reef in the Virgin Islands late last month to discuss the plight of the poor.

Choosing from a menu "laden with a host of superb continental specialties," they dined in lazy luxury as they talked about the hunger that is gaining in impoverished neighborhoods.

One conference session, for example, dealt with food stamp programs. It was

presided over by an Agriculture Department official who was flown in from Washington, \$169 round trip.

When the problems of poverty became too depressing, the welfare officials could escape into the coral waters for "free snorkel lessons," or on afternoon tours of the Virgin Island paradise.

The delegates came from 31 states and regions. At least 10 federal officials from the Health, Education and Welfare Department slipped down to the Virgin Islands for the conference, at a minimum cost to the taxpayers of \$200 apiece, including hotel accommodations.

A spokesman for the American Public Welfare Association, which sponsored the frolic, explained to us: "We hold the conferences in a different region every year, and this was the first time for the Virgin Islands."

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MARGUERITE STEED, granddaughter of Representative Tom Steed, (Dem-Okla.), signed on as an interne last summer in the office of House Speaker Carl Albert.

In the manner of young people, she struck up a summer romance with the Speaker's son, David. Young Albert, like his father, is short in size. And Marguerite, like her grandfather, is a talker.

Congressman Steed jokingly asked his granddaughter one day what might result if a Steed should be crossed with an Albert. She retorted without hesitation: "A long-winded midget."