

Goodell the Next Attorney General?



—Jack Anderson

CHARLES GOODELL, the former Republican senator who was ridden out of office by the Nixon Administration because of his anti-war views, has now been tentatively chosen as the next attorney general by President Ford.

In his 1970 Senate race in New York, Goodell was denounced by Vice President Spiro Agnew as the "Christine Jorgensen" of the Republican party. An able conservative in the House, Goodell had mellowed into a liberal-moderate in the Senate.

Largely as a result of the Agnew attacks and withdrawal of President Nixon's firm support, Goodell was trounced by Senator James Buckley, a Conservative party candidate. But House minority leader Jerry Ford's endorsements never waned and the two men remained friends.

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WHEN MR. FORD became President and decided to extend amnesty to deserters and draft evaders, he picked Goodell to handle the ticklish chore. To date, Goodell has kept the program fair, low-keyed and free from all but routine friction. The job will be all but completed in a few months.

In the last few days, the President and his advisers have tentatively settled on Goodell as the man to replace Attorney General William Saxbe if a graceful way can be found to get Saxbe to step down.

Saxbe dearly loves the job, however, and has told us he came away from a meeting with Mr. Ford a few weeks ago

with the understanding that he could keep it.

At the White House, Saxbe is admired for his tough stands on crime which have also won him popularity with the average American. But Saxbe is outspoken and often is caught with his foot in his mouth. In addition, his deputy, Laurence Silberman, is handling most of Saxbe's day-to-day duties already. Mr. Ford, therefore, has decided that Saxbe eventually must go.

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INSIDE INFORMANTS tell us that the Central Intelligence Agency tipped off the Shah of Iran in August that five of his senior officers, including General Kiumarc Saleh, were plotting to overthrow him. All five were immediately jailed for "misuse of power." It may be merely a coincidence that the U.S. ambassador to Iran, Richard Helms, was a former CIA director. The CIA would not comment on the charge.

Government lawyers, digging through the small print in the Foreign Assistance Act, have now found legal justification for ex-President Nixon's gift of a military helicopter last summer to Egypt's President Anwar Sadat. At the request of Representative Jack Brooks (Dem-Tex.) government auditors had questioned Mr. Nixon's authority to give away the helicopter. But, the lawyers have now authorized the Agency for International Development to pay the \$3 million bill; which also covers spare parts and labor. They cited a provision which authorizes grants "essential to the national interest."