

Marianne

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Means

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Washington sideshow

WASHINGTON — Jimmy Carter's a stranger to the capital, but history indicates he ought to fit right in very quickly. After all, he has the most common presidential first name.

He joins Jimmy Madison, Jimmy Monroe, Jimmy Buchanan, Jimmy Garfield, and Jimmy Knox Polk.

Item: President Ford was generous not only to Richard Nixon but to Nixon loyalists. Guess who's been quietly holding down a \$36,338-a-year political appointment as communications director of the federal commission to review the national policy on gambling? Stephen Bull, that's who.

Bull supervised that wonderful taping system within the Nixon White House and was one of the handful of aides who remained close to Nixon to the bitter end. His appointment expires on Dec. 15, which is just as well.

Item: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research is hoping to beef up its operation with retired Ford administration officials. It is the respected conservative counterpart of Brookings Institution, which regularly supplies the brain trust for Democratic administrations, but has never quite matched Brookings for political clout.

One likely recruit is William Baroody Jr., assistant

to the President for public liaison (he made a lot of speeches). His father is AET's president.

Item: Cabinet speculation rages, totally unhampered by the lack of hard information. A sample:

Alan Boyd, former secretary of transportation to a White House post.

Sen. Vance Hartke, defeated for re-election this month, to the Veteran's Administration. (Well, to be more precise, he's campaigning for it; whether he'll get it may be something else again.)

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis or Rep. Brock Adams of Washington for secretary of transportation. The sweetener in a Dukakis appointment is that Lt. Gov. Thomas O'Neill then moves up, and O'Neill is the son of the next speaker of the House, with whom Carter needs a good relationship.

United Auto Workers chief Leonard Woodcock to secretary of health, education and welfare.

Texas Rep. Barbara Jordan to something.

Item: Strangely, despite the importance of economic issues in the presidential campaign, there was no taxpayers' revolt in the election returns. Voters defeated initiatives to place ceilings on state spending in Michigan, Montana, and Utah. Colorado turned down initiatives to require voter approval of taxes and repeal the sales tax on food.

A Florida legislative proposal to limit the number of state workers failed. So did an initiative to lift the sales tax on food and drugs in Missouri, and voters okayed flat rate income taxes in Michigan and Massachusetts.