

Man in the News

Future CIA Chief Public-Oriented

By LINDA CHARLTON

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WASHINGTON — James Rodney Schlesinger, who will be nominated head of the Central Intelligence Agency, received considerable public attention as the Atomic Commission chairman who took his wife and two of his children to witness the controversial detonation of a hydrogen bomb in the Aleutian Islands.

But that incident, in November 1971, about four months after he became chairman of the AEC, was one of the less startling actions of his tenure.

Faced with trying to reconcile the opposing interests of conservationists and advocates of nuclear energy, Schlesinger began by indicating that he was no longer going to take the traditional AEC position of championing the rights of nuclear energy above all others, including those of citizens.

THIS HE DID by deciding, upon to the office, not to appeal a federal court decision requiring the commission to be responsive to questions on the location of nuclear power plants and their effects on the environment.

Not long after this, he told representatives of the nuclear industry that the commission "exists to serve the public interest," not that of the industry.

During his 17 months as chairman of the commission, he has also undertaken a structure-cutting back on high-level staff and creating a new "assistant general manager for environmental and safety affairs."

While the 43-year-old Schlesinger has made no secret of

his advocacy of nuclear energy as a power source, he says the skeptics have a right to be heard.

IN A MAGAZINE interview, he urged "getting away from the attitude, to wit that atoms are beautiful.

"Historically, this attitude is understandable," he said. "But, in fact, atoms may or may not be useful, depending on the circumstances."

He urged the commission to broaden its concern to take in the entire energy area.

Before leading the commission, Schlesinger was assistant director of the office of management and budget. He joined the Nixon administration in 1969 after working for the Rand Corp. as director of strategic studies. During his years at Rand, he was a consultant on atomic energy to the budget bureau and directed a nuclear-proliferation study commissioned by the government.

SCHLESINGER WAS born in New York on Feb. 1, 1929. He graduated from the Horace Mann School and in 1950 from Harvard College, where he majored in economics. He graduated summa cum laude and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

He also won a prize of \$2,400 that underwrote a year's travel in Western Europe and parts of Africa and Asia. "I learned that the world was a very complicated place," he said, "and that the narrow discipline of economics gave a narrow insight into the social life of man."

He returned to Harvard for his master's and doctorate degrees and in 1954 married Rachel Mellinger, who was then at Radcliffe. They have four sons and four daughters and live in Alexandria, Va.

They moved on to the University of Virginia, where Schlesinger taught economics for six years, except for a six-month leave of absence to teach at the Naval War College in Newport, R. I. He wrote a book, "The Political Economy of National Security," which attracted the attention of, and a job offer from, Rand.