

SCHWARTZ OUSTER WORRIES JOHNSON

He Is Said to Fear Loss of Support Among Liberals

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WASHINGTON, March 8 —

President Johnson was described today by informed sources as seriously concerned about the possible political repercussions of action that forced Abba P. Schwartz out of his high post in the State Department.

Mr. Schwartz submitted his resignation to the White House Friday night as administrator of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs. He said it had been offered 24 hours after he had learned that he was to be the principal victim of a reor-

ganization abolishing his bureau.

This morning, informed sources said, Mr. Johnson was in touch with Secretary of State Dean Rusk to inquire whether some way could be found to keep Mr. Schwartz in the department to handle refugee matters.

Mr. Schwartz was an early member of Americans for Democratic Action, a liberal wing of the Democratic party, and a close friend of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. His standing is high among liberal Democrats nationally, and particularly with liberal Democrats in New York.

During the 1964 election campaign, Mr. Schwartz campaigned in the New York Jewish community for Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who said today: "His departure is a loss to the government he served."

The President is aware that his own status with New York liberal Democrats has been slipping, principally because of their doubts about his Vietnam

policy. He recently has inquired of visitors what he can do to restore his standing with these Democrats.

The President was said to be concerned lest his standing be further eroded by the Schwartz affair.

For many in the academic community to whom such matters are important, Mr. Schwartz had come to represent a policy of eliminating what they felt were petty and unwarranted restrictions on freedom of American citizens to travel abroad.

Academic sources reported today that there was considerable concern as to whether the departure of Mr. Schwartz might signal reinstatement of more stringent restrictions on travel.

One important liberal academician, Prof. John Kenneth Galbraith of Harvard University, said in a telephone interview from Cambridge, Mass.: "If every time the State Department uncovers a liberal like

Abba Schwartz it has to fire him, it is something about which the whole liberal community is going to be concerned and deeply angry. I am sure that the President could not have been aware of the situation."

In New York, R. Peter Straus, a candidate for the Reform Democratic designation in the 19th Congressional District in Manhattan, disclosed that he had urged the President and Mr. Rusk to change the decision that forced Mr. Schwartz out.

Mr. Straus, who is president of radio station WMCA, wants to be the Reform Democrats' choice to run against Representative Leonard Farbstein in the Democratic primary in June. He said in telegrams to the President and the Secretary that the resignation of Mr. Schwartz could only be taken as "a bad blow to the liberal immigration policies that began with the Kennedy Administration."