

WC
SEE JUNE 11

10 JUNE 1964
857 PED

A140WX

CHAYES (300)

WASHINGTON, JUNE 10 (AP)-ABRAM CHAYES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S TOP LEGAL EXPERT, HAS RESIGNED TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LEGAL PRACTICE. HE CITED "FINANCIAL PRESSURE THAT HAS BUILT UP" DURING HIS YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS THE REASON.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON ACCEPTED CHAYES' RESIGNATION "WITH GREAT REGRET" AND PRAISED HIS WORK IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN CHAYES AND JOHNSON WAS MADE PUBLIC BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY. ASSOCIATES SAID CHAYES PLANS TO JOIN A WASHINGTON LAW FIRM AND LATER RETURN TO TEACHING LAW.

A GRADUATE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CHAYES IS 41. HE HAS BEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL ADVISER SINCE FEB. 1961. PRIOR TO THAT HE WAS PROFESSOR OF LAW AT HARVARD FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

"AN OPPORTUNITY HAS ARISEN," HE WROTE JOHNSON ON JUNE 5 TO LIQUIDATE THE (FINANCIAL) BURDEN BY A PERIOD IN THE PRIVATE PRACTICE OF LAW.

"I CAME TO WASHINGTON FROM A UNIVERSITY AND I WANT TO RETURN TO MY WORK AS A TEACHER. IF I AM TO DO SO WITH FAIRNESS TO MY FAMILY AND MYSELF I FEEL I CANNOT FOREGO THIS OPPORTUNITY."

HE SAID HE WAS "PROUD TO HAVE SERVED UNDER PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND UNDER YOU", AND HE DECLARED THAT HE INTENDED TO WORK "IN YOUR BEHALF IN THE COMING CAMPAIGN."

JOHNSON SAID HE UNDERSTOOD "ONLY TOO WELL THE FINANCIAL PRESSURES WHICH HAVE FORCED YOU" TO RESIGN.

"YOURS IS ONE MORE INSTANCE OF A MAJOR LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT RESULTING FROM THE LOW LEVELS OF EXECUTIVE PAY FOR WORK OF HIGH RESPONSIBILITY."

A141WX

"IN THE LAST THREE YEARS," JOHNSON WROTE, "YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR COUNTRY WITH DISTINCTION AS LEGAL ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THUS AS ADVISER ALSO TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND TO ME, IN WIDE AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

"YOUR ADVICE HAS BEEN OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY . . . IT HAS BEEN MARKED . . . BY A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE REALITIES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND OF THE INTERESTS OF YOUR COUNTRY."

EG857PED