

in Grenoble, France. This outstation is just now being established and a new director has just been appointed.

Beyond the emphasis on instrumentation, EMBL will focus on areas that are not being exploited by national laboratories. The projects, Kendrew says, will thus emphasize the study of animal cells rather than the bacteriophages and *Escherichia coli* that have been the staples of molecular biological research. Another aspect of EMBL's research will be the study of biological structures—with the ex-

ception of proteins, which are receiving much work elsewhere. One other possibility, which is not yet definite, might be the construction of safe facilities for studies of genetic engineering. In all cases, Kendrew adds, the projects will be designed to complement projects at national laboratories rather than to compete with them.

Since last year's ratification of the convention establishing EMBL, things have gone rather smoothly for the laboratory. About the only hitch so far has been in-

sufficient space to house its staff. Kendrew, with the politesse of a man in an uncomfortable position, says that the amount of space currently provided is sufficient for the 12 scientists now on the staff, but other sources say that the laboratory has not been provided as much space as it was promised and that Kendrew has thus not been able to hire as many investigators as he had planned to. Everyone agrees, however, that the problem will become more acute when the staff grows to 70 by the end of the year.—THOMAS H. MAUGH II

Interior: President's Nominee for Secretary Has His Problems

In an ideal world, after the White House has nominated a new Cabinet officer, the senators reviewing the nominee's fitness for confirmation would be able to focus almost exclusively on his record and opinions as they bear upon the responsibilities he is to assume. But with President Ford's nomination of Thomas S. Kleppe as the new Secretary of the Interior, senators may find that their first obligation is to determine whether Kleppe, as administrator of the scandal-ridden Small Business Administration (SBA) during the past 4½ years, has proven himself an alert and scrupulous manager in his present job.

The vacancy at Interior has existed since the resignation in late July of Stanley Hathaway, who had been confirmed by the Senate little more than a month earlier after prolonged hearings and much criticism of his record as governor of Wyoming. Hathaway had ultimately entered the hospital in a state of "depression." Politicians in the West try to assert what amounts to virtually a proprietary claim on Interior's top job, so it is no surprise that Kleppe, a former congressman from North Dakota, is from that region too.

His nomination was not made official until 9 September, but Kleppe informed senators from his home state on 3 September that he was the President's choice. At the time, FBI agents were still busy checking out Kleppe as part of the routine clearance procedures which, somewhat anomalously, tend to come as a final step preliminary to major presidential appointments. A *Science* reporter gained confirmation of this by chance in talking with a Civil Ser-

vice Commission (CSC) employee on Friday, 5 September. The reporter was asking about a Congressional report that contained a statement of CSC charges implicating Kleppe's immediate office in abuses of civil service laws and regulations. After leaving the phone momentarily to look for the report, the employee returned and remarked, "I'm sorry, my boss gave our last copy to an FBI investigator yesterday."

In August of 1974, Bernard Rosen, executive director of the CSC, sent a letter of "admonishment" to the SBA's director of personnel, Carl E. Grant, asserting that Grant's office had failed to uphold the integrity of the merit system. At the same time, Rosen recommended that the CSC dismiss from federal employment another

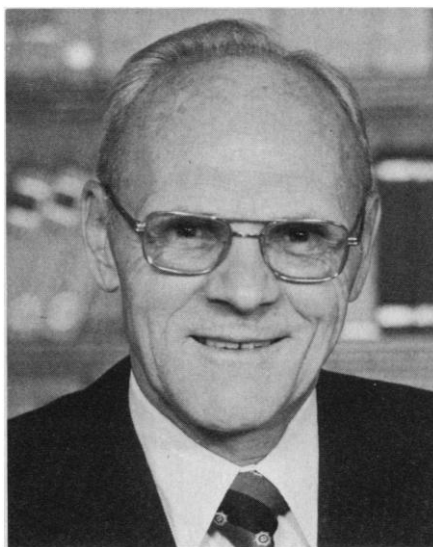
SBA official whom he charged with having repeatedly violated civil service regulations while serving as Kleppe's special assistant.

This latter official, Loren Rivard, was accused of being a party to the appointment of several SBA district directors on a basis of political favoritism. And there is reason to believe that the decision of the CSC investigative staff not to subject Kleppe himself to sworn interrogation about some of these personnel matters was a close judgment that reflected a degree of deference to a presidential appointee. The CSC cannot remove such an appointee from office, but, where there is compelling evidence of wrongdoing, it can and sometimes does interrogate the individual in question and submit a report of its findings to the President.

The charges against Rivard, together with some lesser charges of political favoritism made against one of the SBA regional directors, are being contested by those named and await a hearing by an administrative law judge. Pending this hearing, Rivard is declining to make public his letter to the CSC defending his behavior as the SBA administrator's special assistant.

In the fall of 1973, Kleppe wanted Rivard promoted to the job of a district director in the Midwest. But Kleppe was told by Robert E. Hampton, chairman of the CSC, that, pending completion of the then only recently begun investigation of the serious allegations against Rivard, certification of his suitability for the district job would be withheld. Undeterred, in March of 1974 Kleppe promoted Rivard to the still better job that he holds today—the \$34,600-a-year post of deputy associate administrator for operations. Because this job is outside the civil service, Rivard could be appointed without CSC certification of his suitability for it.

Political hanky-panky in the appointment of SBA district directors, which apparently goes all the way back to the agency's early years in the 1950's, might seem tame stuff in a Washington that has seen



Thomas S. Kleppe

the truly gamy headlines of Watergate. On the other hand, the CSC allegations take on an added significance in the light of widespread evidence of mismanagement, and no little evidence of outright corruption, within the SBA.

In 1973 and 1974, the now-defunct subcommittee on small business of the House Banking and Currency Committee made an extensive investigation of the SBA's affairs. The record of its hearings is replete with accounts of questionable and sometimes illegal practices.

For instance, in some SBA districts the loan officers were under pressure to meet ambitious quotas. As a result, many bad loans were made, with some borrowers perpetrating gross frauds. During 1973 and 1974 a number of SBA employees were terminated or suspended by the agency for misfeasance, and some cases were referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution. In addition, Kleppe has given Congress assurances about administrative improvements and reforms, both as to personnel matters and lending programs. Representative Robert G. Stevens, Jr. (D-Ga.), who chaired the small business subcommittee, is said to believe that Kleppe has performed creditably in a difficult job.

But certain others on the subcommittee have viewed Kleppe's performance less charitably. At one point in the hearings, Representative Lawrence G. Williams (R-Pa.), who died recently, observed that a subcommittee staff investigator had uncovered more in 4 or 5 days about scandalous conditions in the SBA office in Richmond, Virginia, than the SBA headquarters had uncovered in 3 or 4 years. A number of comments of like tenor were made by Representative Frank Annunzio (D-Ill.), and, speaking out in exasperation during a 1973 hearing, he summed up the testimony:

"We have heard charges of coverups, possible kickbacks on loans, loans made by one bank to bail out a bad loan at another bank, loans recommended by insurance salesmen so that the borrower can pay insurance premiums due the salesmen, more than \$1 million worth of SBA assistance made or promised to the brother-in-law of an SBA district director, the attempt by the White House or SBA to cover up the investigation of a supporter of the President—even to the extent of seeing if the SBA investigator would be willing to destroy his files on the investigations, and an assortment of other charges of maladministration.

"Prior to these hearings," Annunzio added, "I had always thought the initials SBA stood for the Small Business Administration. But now I believe that the initials stand for 'Superior Bagman Agency.'"

Whatever may be said about Kleppe's performance at the SBA, it is not at all clear why the President would want him as his Secretary of the Interior. One can only surmise as to the President's reasons, but they probably include these:

- Kleppe is a conservative Republican from a western state, and, as such, is no doubt calculated to be acceptable both to westerners and to the conservative wing of the Republican party.

- As a congressman from 1966 through 1970, Kleppe served in the House with Ford, who was then minority leader, and with Secretary of Commerce Rogers Morton, an influential figure at the White House who only recently left Interior after more than 4 years as Secretary there. Known for his geniality, Kleppe was no doubt as well liked by Ford and Morton as he was by many of his other colleagues.

- Kleppe, who was a successful businessman before he came to Washington, is clearly development-oriented and could be counted on by the White House to press on with the leasing of outer continental shelf oil tracts and the development of coal on public lands in the West—presidential objectives of high priority.

That much said, there does not appear to be much more to say. While in Congress, Kleppe, like other members from the West, no doubt had repeated contacts with the Department of the Interior and its various agencies. But he was not a member of the House Interior Committee and, thus, gained no special familiarity with Interior's problems and potentialities.

In fact, his principal interest while in Congress lay with agriculture, and he served on the Agriculture Committee during both of his two terms in the House. Along with the two senators from North Dakota, Kleppe strongly supported the big—and now controversial—"Garrison Diversion" project of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation. If completed, this project would permit the irrigation of about 1 million acres, allowing the production of such higher-value crops as sugar beets and corn in a region now largely dependent on dry-land wheat farming.

In 1970, at the urging of the Nixon White House, Kleppe made a try for the Senate, running against Quinten N. Burdick, the Democratic incumbent. Although richly financed, his campaign ultimately proved a wretched failure. Stan Moore, president of the North Dakota Farmers Union, gives his perception of it: "I don't think Kleppe ran that campaign. I think it was run by the J. Walter Thompson [advertising] agency from the White House. . . . He stopped being Tom Kleppe and became some kind of fictitious charac-

ter dominated by President Nixon. He was victimized by his own campaign."

Shortly after his unsuccessful Senate race, Kleppe was given the job at the SBA. For all the SBA's problems, there are some Washington insiders to the study of bureaucratic behavior who say that there are other agencies where conditions have been worse, with one in particular said to have been virtually wired into the patronage system of the Nixon White House. At the SBA, on the other hand, such political favoritism as there was (and there apparently was plenty), is said to have been mitigated by a concern for merit principles. Or, to put it another way, the White House was asked to please not send over any turkeys.

One insider, who cannot be named, speaks of Kleppe and his fitness for higher office in these terms: "I'm sure in my own mind that he did some things that were wrong. But in [certain other agencies] there have been some systematic, wholesale, malevolent administrative crooks. I've seen no direct evidence that Tom Kleppe is not qualified for a Cabinet-level job."

—LUTHER J. CARTER

APPOINTMENTS

William E. Gordon, dean, Rice University School of Natural Sciences, to vice president, International Union of Radio Science. . . . **Gerald M. Friedman**, professor, geology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, to president, International Association of Sedimentologists. . . . **John H. Morrison**, chairman, health sciences and biology, Cleveland State University, to dean, School of Related Health Sciences, the Chicago Medical School. . . . **Edward A. Tyler**, associate dean, Northwestern University, to assistant dean for student affairs, the Chicago Medical School. . . . **Walter Bashuk**, professor, plant science department, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, to president-elect, American Association of Cereal Chemists. . . . **Charles Polk**, chairman, electrical engineering department, University of Rhode Island, to head, electrical sciences and analysis, National Science Foundation. . . . **John L. Kice**, professor, chemistry department, Texas Tech University, to chairman, at the university. . . . **Joel C. Kleinman**, research associate, Harvard School of Public Health, to service fellow, division of analysis, at the school. . . . **Richmond T. Prehn**, professor, pathology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, to senior member, Institute for Cancer Research, Philadelphia.