

Scanning the Want Ads with President Ford's Top Officials

The spotlights are focused on the Carter Administration now, with press reports appearing daily about this or that appointment to a high position and rumors chasing rumors about who is in line to get what job. But offstage a different scene is being played out as officials from the defeated Ford Administration begin to reorient their lives and seek new careers. Some have been pushed out of their jobs to make way for new Carter faces; others are jumping ship before they are ordered to go. Most are operating in relative obscurity now, with the public and press no longer interested in their words or deeds. Here, for the benefit of devoted people-watchers, are the plans of some of the major luminaries from the Ford Administration's galaxy of science policy officials:

H. Guyford Stever, 60, President Ford's science adviser and former director of the National Science Foundation, has remained in Washington, D.C., where he plans to do some consulting work (for corporations and perhaps for government and academe). He has recently been elected to the board of directors of TRW, Inc., to fill the unexpired term of another director who had reached the age limit for service on the board. Stever is expected to be elected to a full term by the shareholders in April. Directors are paid \$10,000 a year plus \$500 for each board meeting they attend (there are five in all) plus additional for committee work. The R in TRW stands for Simon Ramo, a prominent Republican industrial technologist who worked closely with Stever on various advisory projects during the Ford Administration. Stever would consider a full-time job if the right opportunity came along, but stresses: "I don't want a full-time job just to have one."

Malcolm R. Currie, 49, director of defense research and engineering in the Pentagon, has become a vice-president at Hughes Aircraft Co., where he had previously worked for 15 years. While still at the Defense Department, Currie had denied reports that he was soliciting a future job for himself from defense contractors—he said he would actually prefer a job in commercial business to one in the defense industry. In his new defense industry job with Hughes Aircraft, Currie will reportedly earn \$180,000 a year and be in charge of the American version of the Roland missile system that he promoted when he was the Pentagon's third-ranking official, a circumstance that has caused muttering about conflict of interest.

Russell E. Train, 56, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, will continue to study, write, and speak out on environmental issues as a private citizen. He will remain in Washington, D.C., operating half-time from the Conservation Foundation, where he formerly served as president. He intends to devote the other half of his work time to international environmental issues, probably in association with the Washington office of Lady Jackson's (Barbara Ward's) London-based International Institute for Environment and Development. Train feels no "sense of euphoria" over what the Carter Administration's environmental policies are apt to be—some straws in the wind look good, he says, others not so good—so he is adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude.

Theodore Cooper, 48, assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, is occupying an office at the National Institutes of Health while he wraps up some chores for the U.S. Public Health Service. As a commissioned public health officer, Cooper could remain in federal service if he wished, but he plans to take a new job in a new environment—academe, industry, foundations, think tanks, state or local government, anything but the federal government. "It's time to do something different," he explains. There has been some speculation that Cooper was pushed out of the assistant secretaryship because he was too closely identified with the much-criticized swine flu campaign, but Cooper says he has no reason to believe that he was the victim of anything beyond the new Administration's desire to install its own team in top policy posts.

Much the same could be said about **David Sencer**, 52, director and long-term employee of the Center for Disease Control, an outpost of the Public Health Service based in Atlanta, Georgia. When Sencer was asked to resign, many commentators suggested that he was being forced out because of his stewardship of the troubled swine flu campaign. Some veterans of the Public Health Service clucked warnings that the Center for Disease Control was being "politicized." But Sencer himself has steadfastly maintained he doubts that his dismissal was motivated by political considerations beyond the new Administration's desire to install its own people in policy positions. The new secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Joseph Califano, told reporters he simply wanted "some fresh air, some fresh faces . . . Dr. Sencer has been there [as director] for 11 years." As for the future, Sencer, like Cooper, is a commissioned health officer who could remain in federal service, but he doubts that he'll stay in government. He reports that he is "still busy" at his desk in Atlanta and hasn't "given any thought yet" to what he might do next. His time in government service entitles him to federal retirement benefits.

Kenneth M. Endicott, 60, head of the Health Resources Administration and a commissioned public health officer, has become director of the Lister Hill Center for Biomedical Communications, which is part of the National Library of Medicine.

Richard W. Roberts, 42, assistant administrator for nuclear energy in the Energy Research and Development Administration and former director of the National Bureau of Standards, has returned to the General Electric Co., where he previously worked 13 years in research and development. From corporate headquarters in Fairfield, Connecticut, he will direct a major study to assess the health and future prospects of all GE technologies, a task occasioned by GE's desire to reorganize itself after the recent acquisition of Utah International, Inc., a natural resources company with extensive coal holdings. "I spent the past four years in government," Robert says. "I felt my career was really in the private sector."

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