

USDA Reorganization Outlined

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 - Final details of the reorganization plan of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - including an additional assistant secretary and realignment of responsibilities - will be published soon in the Federal Register, the Department announced last week. Parts of the plan had previously been published in the Federal Register of Dec. 27.

The reorganization will include:

Creation of the post of assistant secretary for rural development, as authorized by the 92nd Congress. The assistant secretary in this position will have responsibility for the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), and the Rural Development Service. FHA and REA were formerly supervised by the assistant secretary for rural development and conservation. President Nixon has nominated Deputy Under Secretary (Rural Development) William Erwin, to be assistant secretary for rural development. T.K. Cowden, formerly assistant secretary for rural development and conservation, has accepted a

position as counselor to the secretary for land use policies and environmental matters.

The responsibilities of the director of science and education have been combined with some of the functions formerly supervised by the assistant secretary for rural development and conservation; these functions will be supervised by the assistant secretary for conservation, research and education. Responsibilities of this assistant secretary include Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service, both formerly under the assistant secretary for rural development and conservation. Other agencies reporting to this assistant secretary are the Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative State Research Service, Extension Service and National Agricultural Library. The nomination to this position has not yet been announced. Ned D. Bayley, formerly director of science and education, has accepted a position as staff assistant for research to the assistant secretary for conservation, research and education.

Responsibilities of the director of agricultural economics have been enlarged to

include the Farmer Cooperative Service, formerly under the assistant secretary for rural development and conservation. Economic Research Service and Statistical Reporting Service remain under the director or agricultural economics. Don Paarlberg continues in this position.

Continuing under the assistant secretary for marketing and consumer service are the Commodity Exchange Authority, Agricultural Marketing Service, Food and Nutrition Service, Packers and Stockyards Administration and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. President Nixon has nominated Clayton Yeutter to this assistant secretaryship. Richard E. Lyng has resigned from this position and is returning to private life.

Responsibilities of the assistant secretary for international affairs and commodity programs remain unchanged. Agencies reporting to this assistant secretary are the Commodity Credit Corporation, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Export Marketing Service, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and Foreign Agricultural Service. Assistant Secretary Carroll G. Brunthaver remains in this position.

The assistant secretary for administration has responsibility for the Offices of Budget and Finance, Equal Opportunity, Administrative Law Judges,

Plant and Operations, Information Systems, Personnel, and Management Services. Assistant Secretary Frank B. Elliott remains in this position.

The Office of Communication is established, reporting to the secretary. It replaces the Office of Information, formerly under

the assistant secretary for administration. Claude W. Gifford, formerly director of information, becomes the director of communication. The post of assistant to the secretary for public affairs becomes the director of public affairs under the director of communication.

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