

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Armstrong, Anne - Appointment as Ambassador to Great Britain” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Anne Armstrong, a Top Aide to Nixon, Expected to Be Named London Envoy

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—President Ford intends to nominate Anne L. Armstrong, a former White House counselor, to replace Elliot L. Richardson as Ambassador to Britain, a well-placed Administration official said today.

Mrs. Armstrong's new position will be announced when the British Government agrees to her nomination—something viewed here as merely a formality.

Mrs. Armstrong, whose nomination must also be approved by the Senate, would be the first woman in the prestigious London post. Mr. Richardson will return to Washington as Commerce Secretary.

Mrs. Armstrong has long been active in Republican politics in Texas. In 1972 she served as co-chairman of the Republican National Committee.

In December 1972, after his re-election, President Nixon invited her to join the White House. She was the first woman since Oveta Culp Hobby, in the

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MRS. ARMSTRONG DUE IN ENVOY POST

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

1950's, to have Cabinet-level status.

President Ford asked her to stay on as a counselor after he became President in August 1974. She was given responsibility in such areas as planning for the Bicentennial, in the work of the Federal Property Council, the White House Office of Women's Programs, and she served as an official liaison officer between the White House and youth groups and Spanish Americans.

Mrs. Armstrong, who is the wife of a Texas rancher, served at the White House until Dec. 21, when she submitted her resignation, citing "unforeseen and pressing family responsibilities."

State Department officials said when they were told of the pending appointment that Mrs. Armstrong had been chosen as a trusted Republican worker who should be rewarded, and that at the same time the Ford Administration was demonstrating its dedication to women's rights.

She would follow 14 other women appointed to United States embassies since World War II, including six currently serving. The past women ambassadors were: Perle Mesta, Luxembourg; Clare Boothe Luce, Rome; Eugenie Anderson, Denmark; Frances E. Willis, Switzerland; Norway; Ceylon; Catherine Elkus White, Denmark; Margaret Joy, Tibbets, Norway; Patricia Roberts Harris, Luxembourg; Carol Laise, Nepal; Eileen Donovan, Barbados.

Current ambassadors include Jean M. Wilkowsky, Zambia; Ruth Farkas, Luxembourg; Nancy Rawls, Togo; Shirley Temple Black, Ghana; Mary Olinde, Papua New Guinea.

Praised by Officials

Several officials who knew Mrs. Armstrong had high praise for her administrative abilities and for her ability to handle herself in difficult situations. The nominee, 48 years old, is the wife of Tobin Armstrong, whose ranch in Armstrong, Tex., adjoins the famous King Ranch.

A phone call to the ranch today was answered by a secretary who said that Mrs. Armstrong could not comment on the pending appointment, but that if reports of it turned out to be accurate, Mr. Armstrong would accompany Mrs. Armstrong to London.

The British Embassy would not comment on a report of Mrs. Armstrong's appointment that appeared today in The Guardian in Britain. "It's a bit awkward for us," an official said, "since it has not been announced yet."

Costs Are Heavy

Though Mrs. Armstrong will be the first American woman assigned to the British post, a British official said he believed there had been other women envoys in Britain. As Ambassador, she would reside in Winfield House, the mansion in Regent's Park.

The costs of running the embassy are large and usually require Ambassadors of independent means. Mr. Richardson had secured approval in principle from Congress for a larger-than-usual appropriation, since he is not as wealthy as some of his predecessors.

State Department officials said that the White House had recently insisted that political appointees be given first preference for ambassadorships. They said, for instance, that the White House was looking for a political personage for the Peking liaison office, which is now vacant.



JANUARY 9, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Anne Armstrong, of Armstrong, Texas, to be Ambassador to Great Britain. She will succeed Elliot Richardson who resigned to become Secretary of Commerce.

Mrs. Armstrong was born Anne Legendre on December 27, 1927, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She graduated from the Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Virginia, where she was student body president and senior class valedictorian, and in 1949 from Vassar College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

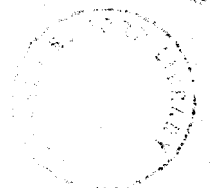
In 1966, Mrs. Armstrong became Vice Chairman of the Texas Republican Party, serving until 1968, when she became Republican National Committee-woman from Texas. She became Co-Chairman of the Republican National Committee in 1971 and was the first woman elected to that position.

Mrs. Armstrong was named Counsellor to the President in 1973, ^{with Cabinet Rank} and served in that capacity until December, 1974. She was the first woman to hold that position. (As Counsellor to the President, She ^{also} served as the President's liaison to the American Revolution Bicentennial, ^{plus} and also directed the President's efforts to gain greater opportunities for women. Under her direction, the first Office of Women's Programs in the White House was established. (She ~~also~~ served as a member of the Council on Wage and Price Stability, the Domestic Council, and the Commission on the Organization of Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy, and ^{as Chairman of the Federal Property Com.}

During 1974, Mrs. Armstrong was a member of the United States Delegation to the World Food Conference in Rome, Italy, and attended the Conference for International Women's Year as a delegate in Mexico City in 1975. ←

→ Mrs. Armstrong is married to Tobin Armstrong and they have five children.

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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
ANNE ARMSTRONG
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

THE OVAL OFFICE

10:45 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Let me say just a word, if I might. I am extremely pleased and very, very happy about the fact that Anne Armstrong is going to Great Britain to represent the United States as our Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

I can add Secretary Kissinger likewise feels she will do a superb job, as I do. I should add a postscript. You will have to give some of the credit for this appointment to Betty, who keeps persistently reminding me that we need the most qualified and extremely able women representing us, whether at home or abroad.

So, I think we have unanimity that she will do a superb job. I know that she will be well received in Great Britain, and I think what you will do will be a credit to you, as well as to our country.

MRS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Betty. Thank you, Henry.

I am very pleased. I am very grateful to you, Mr. President, for this honor, which I consider the greatest one of my life. If I merit the confidence of the Senate, as I have yours, I think I have a double opportunity. I want to do a good job as a person in strengthening the ties between our two countries, which are unique both historically and in the present and, secondly, I don't downplay the fact that I am a woman.

I think it is just great that an American President is the first one to nominate a woman to be Ambassador to the Court of St. James. Because of that, I am going to work doubly hard to be a credit to all women, and to American women in particular.

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Finally, I am particularly looking forward to this position because my other jobs in Government have caused me to be separated from my family a lot. This time most of our children will be with us at least part of the time, and my husband has arranged so that he can go with me.

I think he is going to be an asset to our country, and I know he is going to be a joy and a help to me.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Congratulations.

MRS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Sometime I will go over and see you once in a while.

MRS. ARMSTRONG: I will count on that.

I would be delighted to answer some questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Henry has got a press conference of his own, and I know he is almost late, so if you will excuse him.

MRS. ARMSTRONG: I will see you later.

You realize that I can't get into matters of substance out of respect to the Senate, but I would be delighted to answer any questions that don't have to do with my views on foreign policy at this time.

QUESTION: Have you ever been to London before?

MRS. ARMSTRONG: When I was 21 years old, Fran, but luckily Great Britain is part of our bones as Americans. We learn about it from childhood, and though I know there is plenty left for me to study, I feel confident I can do a good job over there.

QUESTION: Mrs. Armstrong, on the whole level of women in Government, do you think you are doing anything toward the job of getting women appointed to boards and commissions and that sort of thing?

MRS. ARMSTRONG: I think that this President, and his wonderful Betty -- he claims she prods him -- I think they have done a fine job. None of us is ever satisfied that it comes fast enough. But yes, I think that great progress has been made.

MORE



I remember when the President had faith in Carla Hills, that she could do a fine job as a Cabinet member, as head of HUD. Her qualifications were questioned by a number of people at the time, but to me, the President's confidence in her has been completely justified. I think she is doing a fine job.

THE PRESIDENT: I might add that, of course, we have as head of the NLRB, one of the most important agencies or commissions that we have in the country, Betty Murphy, and to put a woman in those very delicate relationships between labor and management with the great responsibility that the NLRB has, I think, proves faith in persons such as Betty Murphy. I am certain that she has done a fine job and will continue to do a fine job.

QUESTION: Mr. President, how about in all those boards and commissions where you named 17 men and two women?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we are doing quite well, Fran, and we are going to continue to do better.

MRS. ARMSTRONG: Did you know you are the only President to have two women in your Cabinet? We didn't overlap, but I was a member of your Cabinet and Carla Hills is now.

THE PRESIDENT: Both very attractive, too.

It is nice to see you all.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 10:54 A.M. EST)

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Anne Armstrong of Armstrong, Texas, to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. She will succeed Elliot Richardson who resigned to become Secretary of Commerce.

Mrs. Armstrong was born Anne Legendre on December 27, 1927, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She graduated from the Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Virginia, where she was student body president and senior class valedictorian, and in 1949 from Vassar College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Mrs. Armstrong was named Counsellor to the President in 1973, with Cabinet rank, and served in that capacity until December, 1974. She was the first woman to hold that position. As Counsellor to the President, she served as a member of the Domestic Council, the Council on Wage and Price Stability, the Commission on the Organization of Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy, and as Chairman of the Federal Property Council. She also served as the President's liaison to women, young people, Hispanic Americans, and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Under her direction, the first Office of Women's Programs in the White House was established.

Mrs. Armstrong was a member of the United States Delegations to the World Food Conference in Rome, Italy, in 1974, and to the Conference for International Women's Year in Mexico City in 1975. In 1975, Mrs. Armstrong was elected a director of several corporations, and she has been active in civic organizations. She serves as a member of the Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year and as a member of the Advisory Council of the American Revolution Bicentennial.

In 1966, Mrs. Armstrong became Vice Chairman of the Texas Republican Party, serving until 1968, when she became Republican National Committee-woman from Texas. She became Co-Chairman of the Republican National Committee in 1971 and was the first woman elected to that position. Mrs. Armstrong became the first woman to make a keynote address at a major political convention at the Republican National Convention in 1972 in Miami Beach.

Mrs. Armstrong is married to Tobin Armstrong and they have five children.