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SECRETARY MORTON'S BROTHER

12/20/74

Q. Does the President see any conflict of interest in the fact that Interior Secretary Morton's brother is on the Board of Directors of an oil company which is leasing oil rich land in the Gulf of Mexico?

A. It is my understanding that leases of this nature must be awarded to the highest bidder and that the Secretary of Interior has no discretion in this matter. (FYI - Former Senator Thruston Morton has been a Director of Texas Gas Transmission Corporation for almost six years. The firm is headquartered in Owensboro, Ky. Rogers Morton has been Interior Secretary for four years). (FYI - Interior has issued a statement and I recommend directing any other queries to Interior's PIO).

