

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 27, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President is today announcing his intention to nominate Rogers C. B. Morton to become Secretary of Commerce to replace Fred Dent who was sworn in yesterday as the Special Trade Representative.

Secretary Morton has been Secretary of the Interior since January 29, 1971. As you know, he also served four terms in the House of Representatives as a Member of Congress.

As Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Morton has carried heavy responsibilities in the energy field, and since October 11, 1974, has served as Chairman of the Energy Resources Council. It is the President's intention that Secretary Morton will continue as Chairman of the Energy Resources Council in his new role as Secretary of Commerce to see the President's energy program through the Congress.

The President concluded that Secretary Morton could make a valuable contribution to this effort as Secretary of Commerce. He has charged Secretary Morton with the responsibility for mobilizing American industry and the business community to expand resource development and conservation efforts in meeting the energy challenges which the Nation faces in the years ahead. On countless occasions the American enterprise system has provided strength and leadership in dealing with problems confronting the Nation. The energy problem is an important challenge and as Secretary of Commerce, Secretary Morton can galvanize the resources of the industrial community toward achieving solutions.

The President has made a preliminary selection of a candidate to become Secretary of the Interior. The individual is now undergoing routine clearances and we will make an announcement concerning his nomination once those clearances are completed.

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