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KLEPPE

Q. How can the President pick Kleppe for Interior Secretary when he has no background in this area?

A. The President, in nominating Mr. Kleppe, is making what he considers an excellent choice as Secretary of ~~Interior~~ Interior. Like all nominees, Mr. Kleppe will have hearings before the appropriate Senate Committee. The Committee will have an opportunity to review his qualifications and get his personal views. The Senate will vote on the nomination. The ~~President~~ President is confident that Mr. Kleppe will be confirmed and will make an outstanding Secretary of Interior.

Q. But he has no record in environment?

A. He represented North Dakota in Congress from 1967 to 1971. His votes there established his record on environmental issues. He represented his constituency from a Western state where there were concern and interest in such issues as land management, timber, and use of water.

Q. What about Civil Service Commission charges that he illegally hired people at SBA for political interest?

A. There were never any such charges. We have looked into these incidents and satisfied ourselves that there is nothing there that involves Mr. Kleppe.

The President has the utmost confidence in Mr. Kleppe. Any of these questions can and will be raised in the hearings.