

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
-----THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the appointment of Larry Speakes of Merigold, Mississippi, as Assistant Press Secretary to the President. He became a member of the staff of the Office of the Press Secretary in August, 1974.

Born in Cleveland, Mississippi, on September 13, 1939, Mr. Speakes attended the University of Mississippi where he majored in journalism.

Mr. Speakes was a staff writer for United Press International's Memphis Bureau and a reporter for the State Times of Jackson, Mississippi, before becoming News Editor of The Oxford Eagle of Oxford, Mississippi, in 1961. He was named News Editor of The Bolivar Commercial in Cleveland, Mississippi, in 1962, and became the Managing Editor in 1965.

In 1966, Mr. Speakes became the Editor and General Manager of Progress Publishers in Leland, Mississippi, and served in that position until 1968. The firm published newspapers at Leland, Hollandale, Drew and Rosedale, Mississippi.

On August 1, 1968, Mr. Speakes was appointed Press Secretary to Senator James O. Eastland, of Mississippi. He handled Senator Eastland's press relations, served as spokesman for the Senate Judiciary Committee and was a coordinator in Senator Eastland's 1972 re-election campaign. He joined the White House Staff in March, 1974.

Mr. Speakes is married to the former Laura Crawford and he has three children. They reside in Falls Church, Virginia.

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