

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today has appointed John A. Knebel as Secretary of Agriculture. This is a recess appointment.

Since December 1975, Mr. Knebel has been Under Secretary/Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. From April 1975 until his appointment as Under Secretary, he was a partner in the law firm of Brownstein, Zeidman, Schomer and Chase. He was appointed in January 1973, as General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, after having served as General Counsel of the Small Business Administration since March 1971. Prior to joining the SBA, he served as Assistant Counsel to the House Committee of Agriculture. He also served as Legislative Assistant to former Congressman J. Ernest Wharton of New York during the 88th Congress (1963-64).

Born on October 4, 1936, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mr. Knebel was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1959 and received his M.A. degree from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska in 1962. He received his law degree from American University in 1965 and was engaged in the private practice of law with the Washington, D.C., firm of Howrey, Simon, Baker and Murchison, from 1965 to 1968. Mr. Knebel is a member of the American, Federal, and District of Columbia Bar Associations, and is chairman of the General Counsels Committee of the Federal Bar Association.

Mr. Knebel is married to the former Zenia Marks, of Wycoff, New Jersey and they have three children. They reside in McLean, Virginia.

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