

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

Seven persons have been appointed to key staff positions in the Gerald R. Ford Transition Office. They are among 24 persons who will serve as President Ford's staff when he leaves office January 20.

They include:

ROBERT E. BARRETT, 38, of Oceanside, New York, will be Executive Assistant to Gerald R. Ford. He was graduated from C. W. Post College in New York, New York and received his M. A. in journalism-communications from Syracuse University. He entered the United States Army in 1964, served two tours of duty in Vietnam, before being assigned as Public Information Officer for the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He was assigned as Military Aide to the President in 1974, and served at the White House until his resignation from the Army effective December 17, 1976.

RICHARD L. WENNEKAMP, 33, of Arlington, Virginia, will be Director of the Washington Transition Office staff. He attended California State University at Long Beach, where he received his B.S. in industrial relations and the University of Southern California Graduate School of Business, where he received his M. B. A. He was associated with Sears, Roebuck and Company in Los Angeles, California prior to joining the Department of Commerce in 1974 as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce. He joined the White House staff in May, 1976, where he was a Staff Assistant and served in the White House Advance Office.

PATRICK BUTLER, 27, of Washington, D. C., will be the speechwriter. He attended the University of Tennessee and was a reporter with the Chattanooga (Tennessee) Times. He served as Assistant Director of Public Information for the Appalachian Regional Commission prior to service as Legislative Assistant to Representative Lawrence Hogan (R-MD). He later was Press Secretary to Representative Wilmer Mizell (R-N. C.) prior to joining the White House staff as a speechwriter in April, 1975.

JANA FAGAN, 38, of Washington, D. C., will be Director of Scheduling. Mrs. Fagan has been a member of the White House staff for the past eight years and was associated with the Office of Communications, serving as liaison with the President Ford Committee. She is married to Charles R. Fagan.

ELIZABETH O'NEILL, 34, of Alexandria, Virginia, will be Director of Correspondence. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama, and joined the staff of Senator John Sparkman, (D-Ala.) prior to coming to the White House in 1972. She was a Staff Assistant the Office of Communications and in 1975 became Director of Correspondence for Mrs. Ford. She is married to Hugh O'Neill.

BARRY N. ROTH, 27, of Alexandria, Virginia, will be Counsel. Mr. Roth was graduated from the University of North Carolina and received his J. D. from Georgetown University. He was Legal Assistant to the General Counsel for the General Services Administration from January, 1972, to January, 1974, when he became Legal Assistant to the Vice President. He joined the White House staff in August, 1974, and is Associate Counsel to the President.

LARRY SPEAKES, 37, of Falls Church, Virginia, will be Press Secretary. Mr. Speakes attended the University of Mississippi and was Press Secretary to Senator James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) prior to joining the White House staff in 1974. He was Press Secretary to Presidential Counsel James D. St. Clair before joining the Office of the Press Secretary in August, 1974. He served as Assistant Press Secretary to the President.