

director of the Cost of Living Council, U.S. Economic Stabilization Program from 1971-73, overseeing wage-price controls, is credited with replacing Secretary of Transportation Brinegar and Office of Management and Budget director Roy Ash with two of his old buddies, John Robson and former HUD Secretary James Lynn. Rumsfeld is responsible for a new organization chart defining the division of responsibilities and lines of authority in the White House, as well as bestowing on another close personal associate, William Walker, key responsibility for White House personnel.

The secret of President Ford's new staff was revealed by Joseph Kraft in today's Washington Post. In a rundown of the newly constituted team huddling around Ford, Kraft sighed with relief that Nelson is in the driver's seat: "So while the Administration is changing, and changing for the better, it is still hard to see the powerful figure who could pull things together in a major effort to turn around the recession. The one hopeful possibility is that the President might, as he has hinted, turn over the leading domestic policy role to the one undoubtedly strong man in his administration--Nelson Rockefeller."

JACKSON BLUSTERS AS SOVIETS HIT U.S. TRADE BILL

Dec. 19 (IPS)--The U.S. Congress is moving to pass a final version of the Trade Reform Act; final action is expected late today or tomorrow, before the bill reaches President Ford's desk for his signature. However, the sense of calm reassurance within top layers of anti-Soviet Democratic Senators was severely upset by the Soviet Union's denial yesterday that any deal had been arranged regarding Soviet emigration policy.

The Soviet press agency Tass issued a frontal attack on the so-called Jackson amendment to the trade bill, which requires "liberalization" of emigration by the Soviet Union. In addition, Tass released an Oct. 26 letter from Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The letter rejected as "unacceptable" any efforts to set conditions on trade that violated the internal sovereignty of the Soviet Union. The Tass statement and the Gromyko letter completely deny that any agreement had been reached between Kissinger and the Soviets regarding Senator Henry Jackson's (D.-Wash.) demand for increased emigration from the Soviet Union as a condition for lower tariffs and credit for the Soviets.

Previously Jackson, leader of a pack of anti-Soviet Senators, including "liberals" Javits and Ribicoff, in favor of the amendment, had assumed an air of pompous assurance that he had succeeded in forcing the Soviets to allow this psychological warfare "foot-in-the-door." He believed the Soviets had fallen into the trap of bowing to pressure from the U.S. regarding internal Soviet policy as an acceptable price to be paid for U.S. credits.

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Yesterday at a short press conference in Washington, Jackson's confidence appeared jolted by the Soviet denial. He and other Senators and major CIA press outlets have adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward the Soviet statements. In his remarks Jackson stated cautiously: "We will have to await the actual course of events." Asked by reporters if he thought the Soviet denial signified a "change in their priorities" regarding desire for U.S. credits, Jackson reiterated: "The performance of the Soviets will decide whether the credits will retain or be cut off." But, he added, "it is clear their response has been in the form of face-saving." This unsubstantiated statement was meant to bolster sagging morale in the ranks of Rockefeller's anti-Soviet contingent.

Visibly losing his "cool," Jackson finally blustered: "The Russians know full well what will happen if they fail to carry out the requirements." He claimed he had gotten firm "assurances" from President Ford that unless Soviet emigration increased to 60,000 per year during the next 18 months, he "would not hesitate to cut off trade and credits."