

Cabinet resignations . . .

State political leaders 'surprised'

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Idaho political leaders Wednesday expressed surprise at the resignation of President Carter's cabinet members, but most believe the move to be one intended to dramatize Carter's efforts for taking a firm hand in coping with the energy crisis.

Some, particularly Republicans, indicated it to be a political ploy, but all agreed some resignations should be made, particularly that of Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger.

Gov. John V. Evans said "I had no indication whatsoever that anything of this nature was in the wind. Of course, this was a group situation at the meeting we had with the president last week and that would not have been an appropriate place to express his views on the cabinet. I'm surprised along with everyone else by the announcement, but I feel that some changes in the cabinet and his own staff would be helpful. I have been outspoken that Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger should go."

Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, said "President Carter has apparently decided to dramatize his determination to start afresh on problems facing the country by reshuffling his cabinet and White House Staff. I do not know what changes will be made, although I anticipate many in the cabinet will remain, including Secretary of Interior Andrus."

Sen. James A. McClure, D-Idaho, said "It's either a Rafshoon (White House media coordinator) staged event or an admission that his administration is incompetent. After two years in office, the president is giving us a cosmetic impression that something different is going to happen — but I doubt that it really is. His political appointees should not become the scapegoat because of the president's own failure to lead. Even less, should the American people be blamed for the problem of the Carter administration."

U.S. Rep. Steve Symms, R-Idaho, said "It looks like the resignations are a procedural maneuver. People of Washing-

ton anticipate that the president will accept some of the resignations. It appears that secretaries Schlesinger, and possibly Blumenthal, Califano and Harris may be dropped. I don't think Secretary Andrus is in any trouble. Carter probably had called for all the resignations to show that he is in control."

George V. Hansen, R-Idaho: "The one who didn't offer to resign is the one who is probably the biggest problem to the administration and that is Carter himself. After 10 days up on the mountain at Camp David, he apparently still hasn't identified the problem, which is his own inaction and lack of leadership. This was manifested Sunday night, when he accused the American people had lost their will to meet problems and accept leadership. He laid it on the Congress for supposedly being run over with special interests. I can frankly say there are special interests in Washington, but the special interests have had more impact on the administration than on Congress. The fact he would ask all of his cabinet and high

ranking officials at the White House to resign shows he is passing the buck and that he is not showing the leadership in the field of energy. The country is going like a ship without a rudder."

Dennis M. Olsen, state Republican chairman, said "Certainly there is a great need for positive leadership. However, a wholesale firing, if done just for the sake of creating a different image, would tend to be a matter of form rather than substance. This has been characteristic of the Carter administration. We will just have to wait and see whether or not this latest action has any real substance to it."

Ruth Amberson, Bonneville County Democratic chairman, said "I'm surprised. I really don't know what to think about it. It is my understanding when a president appoints a cabinet member it is customary he has a letter of resignation in the event he feels the cabinet member is not heeding his policies. It is simply a means of eliminating those he doesn't want to continue. It is also my understanding

Idaho governor Cecil D. Andrus is considered one of his favorite cabinet members, that he (Andrus) is doing an excellent job and that likely he will be retained.

Clyde A. Burtenshaw, Bonneville County Commission chairman, said "I haven't thought about it at this time. Regarding his gasoline program, I don't like it but I don't know of a better way. We will have to see what the cabinet shuffle means. It seems a little too early to know."

Melvin L. Erickson, president of the Idaho Falls City Council, and acting mayor while Mayor Thomas Campbell is at Coeur d'Alene, said "I did think and wonder about it. He started out with the men he thought would work with his administration. He could be more or less pointing out to his cabinet members that it is real serious business to function. Maybe, he thought they were slackening off. In my opinion he wasn't getting the right information. Unfortunately, the thing he is doing right now looks to me like a political move to regain the confidence of the nation."