

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Thomas S. Kleppe, of Bismarck, North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior. He will succeed Stanley K. Hathaway who resigned effective on the appointment and qualification of a successor.

Since January 1971, Mr. Kleppe has been Administrator of the Small Business Administration. He was elected to the 90th Congress from North Dakota's Second Congressional District in November 1966. After his election to the 91st Congress in 1968, he served as a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and the House Republican Policy Committee. From 1950 to 1954 he was Mayor of Bismarck.

In 1946, Mr. Kleppe joined the Gold Seal Company in Bismarck, North Dakota and became Treasurer of the firm and served as President and Treasurer from 1958 to 1964. He became Vice President of J.M. Dain & Company, an investment banking firm headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, serving until 1966.

Mr. Kleppe was born on July 1, 1919, in Kintyre, North Dakota, and attended Valley City Teachers College. He served in the United States Army as a warrant officer from 1942 to 1946.

He is married to the former Glendora Loew and they have four children. They reside in Kensington, Maryland.

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