

FROM: Press Office of Senator John F. Kennedy
505 Esso Building
261 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON DAVID ELLIOTT BELL

David Elliott Bell was named by Senator Kennedy today as Director of the Bureau of the Budget. He was former administrative assistant to President Harry S. Truman.

Mr. Bell has served previously in the Bureau of the Budget in varying capacities under three former directors: Harold Smith, during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt; James Wells and Frank Pace, Jr. during the administration of Harry S. Truman.

At present he is the Secretary of the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard University and in this capacity served as the school's chief administrative officer.

Mr. Bell was born in Jamestown, North Dakota on January 20, 1919, the son of Reginald and Florence Bell. The family moved to Palo Alto, California, when he was five years old and he attended public schools there until entering Pomona College in Pomona, California. He was graduated from Pomona College in 1939 with a BA in economics. In 1941 he received a Master of Arts from the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and was a Fellow in the Department of Economics working on a doctorate when the war started.

Mr. Bell came to Washington in the early months of 1942 and worked in the Bureau of the Budget until his enlistment in the Marines later that year. He was separated from the Marine Corps in 1945 as a 1st Lieutenant attached to the Intelligence Section at Pearl Harbor.

He returned to the Bureau of the Budget in 1945 working at the Estimate Division from December, 1945 to December, 1947 when he became an executive assistant assigned to the White House. In 1948 he was transferred back to the Bureau of the Budget serving as assistant to the Chief of the Fiscal Division and early in 1949 he became administrative assistant to President Truman, serving in that capacity until the President left office in January, 1953.

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He then received a Rockefeller public service award and returned to Harvard University for a year after which he undertook a project in Pakistan as an advisor to the planning board of the Pakistan government, mapping the economic development of that country. He remained in Pakistan from April, 1954 to August, 1957. In September 1957 he returned to Harvard as a member of two faculties, a lecturer on economics in the Harvard Department of Economics and a research associate in the Graduate School of Public Administration. During this period Mr. Bell has retained his interest in Pakistan and revisited that country on several occasions.

Mr. Bell is a registered Democrat and in 1952 headed Governor Adlai Stevenson's research staff. He worked locally for Senator Kennedy and is a close associate of Archibald Cox.

Mr. Bell is married to the former Mary Barry of Altoona, Pennsylvania, and is the father of two children, Susan, 16, and Peter, 12. The family resides at 192 Brattle Street in Cambridge. Mr. Bell's parents are still living and reside in Colma, California, a suburb of San Francisco where his father is Dean of Instruction at San Francisco State College.