

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

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ROBERT HUTCHINSON FINCH (PROFILE)

Robert Hutchinson Finch, designated as the next Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (H.E.W.), is an attorney who for ten years has been one of President-elect Nixon's closest political advisors.

Mr. Finch, 43, is Lieutenant Governor of the state of California. He will give up that post to take the cabinet position.

Mr. Nixon and Mr. Finch have known each other since 1950. In 1958 and 1959 Mr. Finch was in Washington serving as Administrative Assistant to Mr. Nixon, then Vice President.

He was the President-elect's principal advisor in the 1968 campaign, and he was campaign director of Mr. Nixon's first attempt to win the presidency in 1960 against John F. Kennedy.

A pragmatic politician with a middle-of-the-road approach, Mr. Finch has been successful in uniting Republican party factions in his home state and he has a reputation as a young leader with bright prospects.

Although he has lost two bids for a California congressional seat -- in 1952 and 1954 -- Mr. Finch's victory in the Lieutenant Governorship race in 1966 was outstanding. He defeated his Democratic opponent by 1.2 million votes and polled 300,000 more votes than Governor Ronald Reagan, also a winner.

Governor Reagan now will appoint a successor to Mr. Finch in the Lieutenant Governor's post.

Commenting on Mr. Finch's political style after his 1966 victory, one observer said: "his methodical way of lining up almost unanimous support in a party famous for factionalism reads like a textbook of political planning."

Born in Tempe, Arizona, October 9, 1925, Mr. Finch became acquainted with politics as a youngster. While he was still in grammar school, his father, Robert L. Finch, was one of the few Republicans serving the predominantly Democratic Arizona state legislature.

Mr. Finch was President of the Student Body of his secondary school in Inglewood, California, and later held the same office at Occidental College. He was President of the Student Bar Association at the University of Southern California Law School.

During World War II and the Korean War, Mr. Finch served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He enlisted in 1943 at age 19 and was discharged as a First Lieutenant after Korean service. Mr. Finch's wife is the former Carol Crothers. They were married in 1946 and have four children.

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