

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

SECRETARY OF STATE

December 12, 1968

WILLIAM ROGERS: A CAREER PARALLELING NIXON'S (PROFILE)

In his book, "Six Crises," President-elect Nixon describes William Pierce Rogers as a cool man under pressure who has excellent judgment.

Mr. Nixon knows his 55-year old Secretary of State-designate perhaps better than any other man appointed to his cabinet. They are longtime friends.

They have followed careers surprisingly parallel and have been close to each other in their official and social lives.

They first met when both were Navy Lieutenants in training in 1942 at Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

After World War Two, Mr. Rogers became Chief Counsel to the Senate's Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program. Additionally, he was Chief Council of the Senate Executive Expenditures Committee, where he exposed activities of the so-called "Five-Percenter" who obtained Federal Government contracts for private firms.

As an investigator, Mr. Rogers was known for his scrupulous nonpartisanship and fairness to witnesses. The New York Times said in 1952 that "He has impressed both Republicans and Democrats in Congress as one of the best investigators to climb Capitol Hill..."

Mr. Nixon and Mr. Rogers sat together at President Eisenhower's Cabinet Table as Vice President and Attorney General. It was Mr. Rogers to whom Vice President Nixon turned for advice and support when President Eisenhower suffered his first heart attack in 1955 and a stroke in 1958.

Following President Eisenhower's 1952 Election Victory, Mr. Rogers was named Deputy Attorney General. He succeeded Herbert Brownell as Attorney General in 1957.

Mr. Rogers negotiated with Congressional leaders to draft the Civil Rights Bill that was enacted in 1957. Although unable to get as strong a law as the Eisenhower Administration wanted, he was instrumental in getting the Senate to pass legislation more stringent than it had intended to produce. He is known as a strong advocate of Civil Rights and personal liberties.

When he becomes America's 55th Secretary of State, Mr. Rogers will not be the first former Justice Department official to join the State Department. Nicholas Katzenbach moved from Attorney General to Under Secretary of State during the Johnson Administration.

Mr. Rogers foreign affairs experience includes membership on the 1967 U.S. Delegation to the United Nations. That same year he was a member of the U.N. Ad Hoc Committee on South Africa.

In 1960 he headed the U.S. Delegation to Togo's Independence ceremonies, and he also visited Mali, Guinea, Senegal and Nigeria.

Mr. Rogers was born June 23, 1913, in Norfolk, New York. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree at Colgate University in 1934 on a tuition scholarship which he supplemented with money earned by dishwashing, orchestra booking, and selling brushes from door to door. Mr. Rogers won a scholarship to Cornell University Law School, after which he was appointed Assistant District Attorney in New York by District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey.

Mr. Rogers married a Cornell University classmate, Adele Lanston. They have one daughter and three sons.

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BIOGRAPHY OF SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS

William Pierce Rogers, of Maryland, was sworn in January 22, 1969, at the White House as the 55th Secretary of State.

Secretary Rogers was born at Norfolk, New York, on June 23, 1913. He received the A.B. degree at Colgate University in 1934 and the LL.B. degree at Cornell University in 1937.

Admitted to the New York Bar in 1937, Mr. Rogers was Assistant District Attorney, New York County, during the years 1938-42 and 1946-47. In 1947 he became Counsel to the Senate War Investigating Committee, and Chief Counsel in 1947-48. During 1948-50 he was Chief Counsel of the Senate Investigations Subcommittee, Executive Expenditures Committee. In 1950 he was admitted to the Bar of the District of Columbia.

In the years 1950-53, Mr. Rogers was a partner with Dwight, Royall, Harris, Koegel and Caskey of New York City and Washington, D.C.

Mr. Rogers served as Deputy Attorney-General of the United States during 1953-57, and then as United States Attorney-General from 1957 until 1961. In 1960 Mr. Rogers was the Personal Representative of President Eisenhower at the independence ceremonies of the Republic of Togo. In 1961 he became a member of the law firm of Royall, Koegel, Rogers and Wells of New York, Washington, D.C., and Paris; this was his position when nominated by President Nixon to be Secretary of State.

In 1965 Mr. Rogers was appointed by President Johnson as an Alternate U.S. Representative to the 20th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. President Johnson also accorded him the personal rank of Ambassador as the U.S. member of the U.N. Ad Hoc Committee for South West Africa in 1967. During the period 1965-67, Mr. Rogers served as a member of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration.

Secretary Rogers served as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy in 1942-46. Among his honorary degrees are: LL.D. 1957, Duquesne University; LL.D. 1958, Loyola University; LL.D. 1959, Columbia University; LL.D. 1959, St. Lawrence University; LL.D. 1960, Washington-Jefferson College; LL.D. 1960, Middlebury College; L.H.D. 1957, Clarkson College; D.C.L. 1958, Colgate University.

Secretary Rogers is married (June 27, 1936) to the former Adele Langston, and they have a daughter, Dale (Mrs. Donald J. Marshall), and three sons: Anthony Wood, Jeffrey Langston, and Douglas Langston.

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For further information contact:

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