

American

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Background Information

JOHN A. SCHNITTKER

President Johnson has appointed John A. Schnittker as Under Secretary of Agriculture, the second-highest ranking position in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, succeeding Charles Murphy. Mr. Schnittker will assume office as soon as Mr. Murphy takes up his new duties with the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Mr. Schnittker was born in 1924 in Kansas, received the Ph.D. from Iowa State University and has taught economics and agricultural economics at Kansas State University. He was a staff economist for the Council of Economic Advisers of the President from 1958-59 and became chairman of the Wheat Task Force in 1961. (The Wheat Task Force was established by President Kennedy to prepare new wheat legislation for acreage control. This legislation was defeated by farmers in a referendum in May 1963.)

He served as a staff economist in the Office of the Director of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture from 1961-64, where he worked primarily on programs for major farm commodities, particularly grains. He was named Director of Agricultural Economics in 1964. He has also been consultant to several Congressional committees, including the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Joint Economic Committee.

Mr. Schnittker has represented the Department of Agriculture at preliminary meetings in Geneva for the Kennedy Round negotiations in 1963 and 1964 and has also taken part in other trade negotiations.

According to well-informed sources, he has participated quite actively in the drafting of the new farm legislation presented by President Johnson, particularly those sections concerning wheat and rice.

G.F.S.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John A. Schnittker, 2114 N. Randolph, Arlington, Virginia.

Born in 1924 on a farm in Kingman County, Kansas.

Grew up there on a wheat and livestock farm.

B.S. (1950) and M.S. (1954) degrees, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas; Ph.D. degree (1956) Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Served as an infantry officer, 1950-52, including combat duty in Korea in 1951-52.

Taught economics and agricultural economics as Assistant Professor and Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Kansas State University, 1956-58, and again in 1959-61. Served as Staff Economist in the Office of the Director of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture from early 1961 to 1964. In this capacity worked primarily on programs for major farm commodities -- including feed grains and wheat.

Staff Economist, Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D. C., 1958-59.

Chairman of Wheat Task Force established by President-elect Kennedy, 1960.

Named Director of Agricultural Economics, USDA in June 1964.

Mr. Schnittker represented the Department of Agriculture at preliminary meetings in Geneva for the Kennedy Round of Trade negotiations in 1963 and 1964, and in other trade negotiations.

Author of articles on wheat and general agricultural policy. Served as consultant to the Senate Committee on Agriculture in 1959 and to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress in 1960. Served as consultant to the Committee for Economic Development in 1960.

Married to the former Catherine Conroy of Beloit, Kansas.