

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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CLIFFORD HARDIN: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE-DESIGNATE (PROFILE)

A colleague of University of Nebraska Chancellor Clifford Morris Hardin characterizes him as an executive "Good on his feet when it comes to getting things done."

For this reason, Dr. Hardin, chosen to be Secretary of Agriculture in the Nixon Cabinet, is a popular man in Nebraska, respected by those who have done business with him.

Dr. Hardin, 53, took over the leadership of the University in 1954--One of the youngest Chancellors in the Institution's history at age 38. The University's enrollment then was about 9,000. Today some 18,000 attend classes at the Lincoln campuses, with another 10,000 attending facilities in Omaha. It is one of the leading agricultural colleges in the country.

Dr. Hardin is credited with breathing "inspiration" into the University, and with being highly successful at getting the Nebraska State Legislature to appropriate funds for expansion. The University, under his direction, is said to have progressed more in the past eight years than in the 91 years it existed before he became its head.

The Agriculture Secretary-designate was born on a farm near Knightstown, Indiana, in the heart of the American grain belt, and he is familiar with the farmers' problems. As a youth he was active in the Four-H, a national youth farm organization, and in related activities.

After graduating from secondary school, he entered Purdue University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science, Master's Degree and Doctorate in Agricultural Economics. He has taught courses in that subject at several universities.

Two weeks after graduating college, Dr. Hardin married his campus sweetheart (and a winner of a campus beauty contest), the former Martha Love Wood. The couple has five children, three daughters and two sons.

The Secretary-designate went to work shortly after graduation from Purdue in 1942 as an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin. In 1944, he took a job as Associate Professor at Michigan State University, where nine years later he became Dean of the School of Agriculture. He left his position there to assume the Chancellorship at Nebraska University.

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