

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Camp David, Maryland)

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Peter J. Brennan, 54, of New York, New York, to be Secretary of Labor. He will succeed James D. Hodgson, whose resignation the President accepted today with special regret. Mr. Hodgson's resignation will be effective upon the confirmation of a successor.

Mr. Hodgson has been Secretary of Labor since July 1, 1970, when he was sworn in at San Clemente, California. The President announced his intention to nominate Mr. Hodgson for the Cabinet position on June 10, 1970.

Mr. Brennan has been President of the New York City and New York State Building and Construction Trades Councils, AFL-CIO, for the last 15 years. He was elected President of the Council in New York City in 1957 and President of the Council in New York State in 1958.

Mr. Brennan was born May 24, 1918, in New York City. Following his graduation from Commerce High School, he started as an apprentice in the Painter's Union and became a master painter and official of his local union while attending classes at City College of New York.

Following service in the U. S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II, he resumed his union activities in New York City. In addition to his positions in the Building and Construction Trades Councils, he is a Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO.

During his career as a union official, Mr. Brennan has served on many church, civic and youth groups on the local and state levels. He is currently a Vice President and Director of the Police Athletic League of New York and is active in Youth Council and Boy Scout activities in New York City.

Mr. Brennan was appointed by Governor Rockefeller to the New York State Job Development Advisory Committee and the New York State Labor Department's Safety Advisory Committee. On September 16, 1971, the President appointed Mr. Brennan to the National Advisory Committee for the Education of Disadvantaged Children for a term of two years.

The recipient of many local, national and international awards during his career in labor, Mr. Brennan worked with the Workers' Defense League to bring minorities into the apprenticeship training programs of the building and construction trades unions.

Mr. Brennan is married. He and his wife have three children and five grandchildren.

