

Six Able Men Named for Top Posts

President-elect Eisenhower has chosen six exceptional men for key positions in his administration for the next four years. This capacity for selecting able lieutenants was an attribute of the leadership which General Eisenhower demonstrated so inspiringly in World War II.

The drafting of such outstanding men as John Foster Dulles for secretary of state, General Motors President Charles E. Wilson for secretary of defense and others named by the President-elect is reassuring evidence of the sterling type of administration that may be expected under General Eisenhower for the next four years. George M. Humphrey, Cleveland industrialist and financier; Herbert Brownell Jr. of New York, and Gov. Douglas McKay of Oregon will add strength to the cabinet in their respective positions as secretary of the treasury, attorney general, and secretary of the interior. Harold E. Stassen will direct the affairs of the Mutual Security Agency in the field of foreign aid.

Mr. Dulles will assume the difficult problems of state with the high regard of fellow Americans and our allies, even the respect of our adversaries who are familiar with the diplomat's proven ability. It is certain that as much attention will be devoted to the Far East as to Europe under Mr. Dulles' tenure. His notable achievements have included the Japanese peace treaty, mutual security pacts in the Pacific and service under three Democratic secretaries of state. Mr. Dulles participated in the drafting of the U. N. Charter, has been a GOP foreign policy adviser and a sponsor of bipartisanship in foreign affairs. His career in international relations extends back to the Wilson administration. The secretary-nominate should have influence with all factions in the Senate, charged with the duty of treaty ratification.

Mr. Wilson, named secretary of defense, has been known as "a hard-headed engineer and production man." As president of General Motors since 1941, he has been a guiding force in the actual production of armament for war and postwar defense. Previously he had been vice president of the same corporation for 10 years.

The selection of Mr. Wilson is application of the sound policy that a civilian should head the Department of Defense. Moreover, he has already demonstrated

the capacity to head an enterprise of great magnitude comparable to the defense program. While Mr. Wilson is a newcomer in government service, he is a veteran in the production and distribution of the sinews for national defense and in the leadership of huge organization.

The choice of Governor McKay as secretary of the interior conforms to the usual custom of naming a Westerner to that post, because our major natural resources and development projects largely are situated in the West. The great water power projects of the federal government are located principally in the Pacific Northwest. Governor McKay has worked in this field, including membership in the Columbia Basin interagency committee studying resources development.

To the post of secretary of the treasury, Mr. Humphrey will bring valuable experience in finance and industry, and will give regional representation to the Midwest in the cabinet. He is president of a steel company in Cleveland, board chairman of a coal company and member of the executive committee of the National City Bank of Cleveland.

Mr. Brownell at the age of 48 will be a comparatively young attorney general. He has been an attorney in New York, an adviser to Governor Dewey, and a leading figure in the fight for General Eisenhower's election.

Mr. Stassen is president of the University of Pennsylvania, former governor of Minnesota, a Navy veteran, and delegate to the San Francisco conference framing the U. N. Charter. The swing of the Stassen delegation to the Eisenhower column at Chicago was a decisive force for early nomination of the general.

The President-elect has expedited the changeover in administration next January by his early selection of six key officials about two months before the inauguration. The immediate task of smoothing the transition should be handled with the maximum efficiency so that the national security will be safeguarded in the interim between two administrations. There is every promise that the next President's tenure will be reinforced by one of the strongest cabinets in years. The best is not too good for America in this period of stress and crisis.