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11/05/74

HENRY PETERSEN RESIGNATION

Q. Isn't it true that Henry Petersen was asked to resign because of his handling of the original Watergate case and the disclosures of his conversations with Nixon?

A. Absolutely not. Mr. Petersen reached the decision solely on his own and I think if you read the President's letter, you will agree. As you may know, Mr. Petersen has been a government employee for nearly 30 years, and he has reached the maximum in terms of his pension and he can probably make three times as much money by going into private practice.

Q. How much does Petersen get paid?

A. \$38,000

Q. What are his future plans?

A. I don't know -- you will have to ask him.

Q. Do you have a successor to name at this time?

A. No.

(FYI - Attorney General Saxbe will be issuing a statement commending Petersen for a job well done and pointing out the very significant role he played in the government's war on organized crime. I believe Saxbe's statement will also say that Petersen is going to get a departmental citation or medal for meritorious service).

(ADDITIONAL FYI - Petersen told me this morning that, in addition to the above information, he was tired of being a lightning rod and that when he told the Attorney General that he was thinking of resigning, effective the end of the year that Saxbe asked him to stay on until June, 1975. Henry said that once he made the decision to go he didn't feel like prolonging the agony.)

