

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 19, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Joseph Laitin, of Bethesda, Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. He will succeed Jerry W. Friedheim who resigned effective September 15, 1974.

Since November of 1963 Mr. Laitin has been with the Office of Management and Budget as Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs. Also during this time he served on the Marshall Commission from 1966 to 1967, the Eisenhower Commission from 1968-1969, and the Presidential Commission on Campus Unrest (Scranton Commission) in 1970. From 1965 to 1966 he served in the Office of the White House Press Secretary before returning to the Bureau of the Budget.

He has held various reporting assignments during the period before World War II; his first being with the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and the Standard News Association. During World War II he was head of the United Press staff in Washington, D. C., and later became a war correspondent in the Pacific Theatre for Reuters and NBC. He also spent ten years free-lance writing, teaching and broadcasting, in Los Angeles, prior to entering government service.

Mr. Laitin is married and has two children. They reside in Bethesda, Maryland.

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