

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 9, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the appointment of Russell A. Rourke, of Annapolis, Maryland, as Special Assistant to the President. Since November, 1974, Mr. Rourke has served as Deputy to John O. Marsh, Jr., Counsellor to the President.

Born on December 30, 1931, in New York City, Mr. Rourke received his B.A. degree with honors from the University of Maryland in 1953 and his LL.B. from Georgetown Law Center in 1959. He was on active duty in the United States Marine Corps from 1953 to 1956, including service in Korea. A member of the Marine Corps Ready Reserve, Mr. Rourke was recently selected for promotion to the rank of Colonel.

In 1960, Mr. Rourke was associated with the Washington law firm of Keogh, Carey and Costello. From 1961 to 1964 he served as Administrative Assistant to former Congressman John R. Pillion. He served in a similar capacity with former Representative Henry P. Smith III from 1965 to 1974. In November, 1974, Mr. Rourke was the Republican-Conservative nominee for Congress from the 36th District of New York.

Mr. Rourke is married to the former Judith Anne Muller, and they have three daughters.

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