

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 7, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the appointment of Benjamin Reifel, of Aberdeen, South Dakota, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. This is a recess appointment. He succeeds Morris Thompson who resigned effective November 3, 1976.

Born on September 19, 1906, in Parmelee, South Dakota, Mr. Reifel received his B.S. degree from South Dakota State University in 1932. He attended Harvard University and received his M.A. degree in 1950 and his Ph.D. in 1952. He served in the United States Army as an officer from 1942 to 1945.

In 1960, Mr. Reifel was elected to the 87th Congress and was elected successively to the 88th, 89th, 90th and 91st Congresses. While a member of Congress, he served on the Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Appropriations and Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies.

Mr. Reifel is married and has one daughter.

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