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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE  
JAN 5 1940  
MR. MESSERSMITH

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EXTRACT FROM MEMORANDUM OF SECRETARY HULL'S PRESS CONFERENCE, JANUARY 5, 1940

Q. Mr. Secretary, the diplomatic nominations sent up to the Senate yesterday included two State Department men, Mr. Messersmith and Mr. Long. Now that those have been announced officially, can you comment on those?

A. Well, naturally, we are sorry to have Mr. Messersmith leave the Department here in Washington in view of the specially valuable service he has rendered both in the Department here and in the foreign career service in the field. I don't know of anyone who could have rendered more valuable service than he has in the capacity he has been occupying. I think we are fortunate in securing as his successor, Mr. Breckinridge Long, who has given probably 20 years of the best part of his life to service in the State Department and in the field. He is, like most of us, intensely interested in the Foreign Service, including every phase of the career service and in its steady progress and improvement and it will be a real satisfaction to work with him along those lines.