

NEWS



from
**Paul
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U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR PAUL TSONGAS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM
CLARK FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

The appointment of William Clark to serve as Secretary of the Interior comes as a big surprise to us all. The appointment is so surprising not only because speculation centered around other more qualified potential nominees, but because of the importance and sensitivity of Judge Clark's current position as the President's National Security Adviser.

While it is too early to judge the implications of this change -- it does reflect the continued disarray of this Administration's foreign policy. Clark will be leaving his post at the National Security Council, just as his deputy Robert McFarlane is deeply involved in the critical and sensitive negotiations in Lebanon and the Middle East.

In addition, Judge Clark's lack of background in public land and environmental issues and his early statement of support for continuation of James Watt's policies at Interior are alarming. While James Watt was not forced to resign for Interior-policy related reasons, his term of office has been marked by a seeming total disregard for the protection of this nation's natural resources. More of the same is unacceptable.