

Former Farmington Hills resident

Blumenthal tapped for cabinet post

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Atlanta, Ga. He also designated Congressman Brock Adams of the state of Washington to head the Transportation Department.

Fifty-year-old Blumenthal, a specialist in international economics, is the chairman of the Southfield-based Bendix Corporation, the nation's fifth largest corporation.

Blumenthal said he was exceedingly proud and gratified to have picked as part

of the Carter administration.

"Ours is a great country," he said. "We have great resources both economically and in manpower and I shall try to marshal them resources."

Blumenthal, who was accompanied by his wife Margaret and three daughters, is not one of the faces Carter people have promised would be part of the new administration.

HE LEFT a position as vice president of the Crown Cork International Corporation in 1961 to join the Kennedy administration as an assistant secretary of state for economic affairs.

He was a trade ambassador in Geneva from 1963 to 1967 and headed the U.S. delegation during the Kennedy Round of international tariff negotiations which eased trade restrictions among free world nations.

It was after his service in the Johnson years that he joined Bendix in 1967, becoming chairman five years later. The supplier to the automotive, aerospace, house and electronics industries has experienced steady rise in sales and profits under Blumenthal's leadership.

Blumenthal has been described by various associates as hard-nosed, forceful, impatient, demanding and highly analytical.

Labor boss Douglas Fraser, a UAW vice president has referred to him as "a good planner who thinks things through."

Like Henry Kissinger, the retiring Secretary of State, Blumenthal came to this country as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

He was born in Berlin in 1926 to a family ethnically, though not religiously, Jewish. This made no difference in the Germany of the 1930s and his family suffered persecution, both economic and personal.

Blumenthal's father spent three months in Buchenwald concentration camp and then took his family to Shanghai from where he hoped to move on.

BECAUSE of the Japanese occupation of Shanghai and World War II the family did not arrive in America until 1947. Blumenthal had little education and less money, but supported himself as he earned a degree from the University of California at Berkeley in international economics.

In another five years he had earned a Ph.D. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. From 1954 to 1957, he taught in the school's economics department.

A former resident of Farmington Hills, Blumenthal now resides in Ann Arbor.

He has a record at Bendix of being strongly for equal opportunity for women and minorities. He once told a Livelihood Luncheon in Southfield that the proper use of people is the key to making profits.

"If we treat the people we work with like good neighbors, we have found that it helps us to make a profit," he said. "People want an opportunity to develop to their fullest. As our employees grow, we



W. MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL

have found that the business grew at the same time."

Bendix employs 80,000 people and is represented in every industrialized nation in the world.

Blumenthal stressed that Bendix works hard on maintaining good avenues of communication between management and employees.

He told that gathering he spends about one-third of his time traveling around the world listening to managers and workers.

LAST YEAR Blumenthal appeared to "go public" and generated interest both in Michigan and the nation.

Gov. Milliken appointed him to head the Michigan Economic Action Council, a group of state leaders from labor, business and other fields to evaluate the state's long-term economic prospects.

He gained national attention in May by asking for a business code of ethics to combat swelling anti-business feelings that resulted from reports of illegal payoffs by companies here and abroad.

He also spoke out for increased economic planning by the government to fight unemployment, although he does not support the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill which he said "calls for too much detail and too elaborate a structure."

"It would result in too much bureaucracy, and it would hamper the functioning of a free economy in ways that I would regret."

Blumenthal believes in unrestricted international trade and is a staunch profit motive advocate.

At Bendix he earns approximately \$400,000 annually, much more than he can expect in public service.

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Trapper heads for Hills; gets tangled in the law

A would-be trapper tried to use Farmington Hills as his happy hunting ground last week but was caught by sharp-eyed residents and police officers.

Residents complained to Farmington and Farmington Hills police last week after finding traps set near their homes.

Farmington police found several traps behind the Heritage Hills Condominiums in Farmington Hills.

"Someone was seen walking out of the area with the traps," said Lt. John Santomaro of the Farmington police.

"We were afraid that children in the area could be harmed. The traps were large enough to catch a small animal," he said.

Farmington Hills police received a report that someone was setting traps in a wooded area near Farmington Road, west of Drake. A man was seen emerging from a wooded area with a knapsack containing traps.

The trapper failed to snare any game and produced a valid Michigan Trapping license, according to police.

Farmington Hills police questioned Gerald Ditchfield, 229 Lee Wright, Southfield, about the incident but he denied any knowledge of them.

Meanwhile, Farmington police are re-

searching the area's laws, since they don't specifically prohibit trapping.

The trapper will be charged with creating a nuisance.

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