

CPYRGHT



County Executive J. Russel Sprague presents a framed scroll to Lieutenant-General Cornelius W. Wickersham, retiring as Nassau civil defense chief after a year of service. Wickersham is returning to his private law practice.

Wickersham Quits As Civil Defense Boss

Lieutenant General Cornelius W. Wickersham of Lawrence who will retire Sunday as director of Nassau civil defense was honored at a luncheon yesterday. He will devote more time to his Manhattan law practice.

Wickersham has served the county without pay for the past year in setting up a home front defense.

General F. Trubee Davison of Locust Valley had been expected by civil defense inner circles to take over the post of director when Wickersham resigned.

But Davison's recent call to Washington will prevent him from doing so. Davison will assist General Walter Bedell Smith in the Central Intelligence Agency. His resignation from his Nassau CD post was announced last week.

WICKERSHAM will continue to serve as director until his successor has been named by County Executive J. Russel Sprague.

"The retirement of Wickersham is not a pleasant thing to face for his is a duty remarkable achievement," Sprague said yesterday at a luncheon for Wickersham at the Swan Club in Roslyn.

In one year under his guidance "Nassau has the finest most outstanding civil defense organization in the county," Sprague said.

Sprague put his appreciation and that of the County Board of Supervisors into words engraved on a scroll which he presented to Wickersham.

"When we started CD a year ago," Wickersham stated "the world situation was complex and we were engaged in a limited war. But the time has come when we have 60,000 to 70,000 young men however."

"IT DID disclose that we were wholly unprepared but I think we have learned the lesson that war will last as long as Communism lasts," he declared.

He urged Americans to adopt a four-point policy for the coming years. Our policy, he said, must be

one of courage and not of fear; all our Armed Forces must be kept up to strength, both as to personnel and equipment; we must have a strong civil defense organization and we must conserve our natural resources.

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