Regulatory Officials Shift

Robert P. Bedell will replace Jim J. Tozzi as deputy administrator of the Office of Management and Budget’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. OMB has announced.

In 10 years at OMB, Bedell helped draft some of the regulatory office’s legal underpinnings, including the executive order on regulatory review and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. He also spent time last year pushing for regulatory reform legislation that eventually died in the House.

Meanwhile, Tozzi broke out his liquor supply at a farewell gathering last week, joking that “every bottle comes from an ex parte contact.” Tozzi, whose heavy hand kept many an agency regulation out of the Federal Register, was alluding to criticism that he has met with regulated industries and trade groups without keeping records of the contacts.

His opportunity for such contacts, at least on the third floor of the New Executive Office Building, will end May 27. He is going off to found a consulting firm, Multinational Business Service Corp., and to be an economic consultant to the law firm of Beveridge & Diamond, which specializes in environmental issues.

Agriculture Plans Cutback in Free Cheese for Poor

The Agriculture Department plans to cut back deliveries of government-owned surplus cheese to the nation’s poor from the levels delivered this spring.

Plans call for 25 million pounds to be distributed monthly by August. At its peak in March, the program gave away 55 million pounds. In 1982, however, the program distributed 19 million pounds monthly.

In March, Deputy Secretary Richard Lyng said, “We got the volume of cheese up really too high. Ineligible people were getting it. Commercial sales of cheese were dropping off rather sharply. It makes no sense for the government to buy surplus cheese and then give it away and create more surpluses.”

The League of United Latin American Citizens has complained, however, that the reduction is a result of lobbying by food industry groups, which feared a reduction in cheese sales if heavy government donations continued.

Navy Smooths Oregon Feathers on Shipyard Awards

The Navy has moved quickly to smooth the ruffled feathers of the Oregon congressional delegation after Undersecretary James F. Goodrich suggested that the state could not expect to get more shipyard contracts because of the members’ voting record.

Goodrich said in a speech in that state last month that “Oregon’s problem is its representation . . . . I don’t think they are showing the interest they should show in the military and in rebuilding the military.”

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) met with Navy Secretary John F. Lehman Jr. and Goodrich last week, and said he thought their differences “have been very amicably resolved.” However, an aide to Sen. Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) said the senator was “not entirely satisfied” with answers he had received earlier in the week.

—Felicity Barringer