

WATERGATE RESIGNS

Concedes Errors in Judgment; Ford to Be Sworn In Today

Court Fate Of Nixon Unanswered President Cites Loss Of Support

Today's in the News column is devoted to comments about President Nixon's resignation.
Senator George S. McGovern (Dem., S.D.)...

WASHINGTON — Almost no one in official Washington wants President Nixon to go to jail, but his resignation left unanswered the question of how he'll stay out of court.

He and his former aides, several of whom already are awaiting trial, still face numerous potential criminal and civil charges, and Watergate seems destined to stay in the news for a long time to come.

Mr. Nixon could avoid prosecution if Vice President Gerald R. Ford, after becoming president, granted immunity to him.

Mr. Nixon is almost certain to be subpoenaed as a witness at the Watergate cover-up trial next month and other legal proceedings involving his one-time advisers.

In a statement telephoned to the news media immediately following Mr. Nixon's resignation speech, Jaworski said he knew ahead of time Mr. Nixon would step down but added he had no role in the decision.

"There has been no agreement or understanding of any sort between the president or his representatives and the special prosecutor relating in any way to the president's resignation," Jaworski said.

"The special prosecutor's office was not asked for any such agreement or understanding offered none," he said.

At worst, Mr. Nixon stands vulnerable to indictment on charges of obstructing justice for his admitted role in the Watergate cover-up.

The same Grand Jury that named Mr. Nixon an indicted co-conspirator in the Watergate case has also indicted Mr. Nixon on the same charges.

This, while there is a presumption that there will be no rush to prosecute the former president, there is no guarantee.

Meanwhile, there were persistent rumors that Ford would select Nelson A. Rockefeller, 65, the former Republican governor of New York, as vice president.

Rockefeller scheduled a press conference at 5:45 p.m. (CDT) today at Bangor, Me., where he was visiting.



Nixon announces his resignation to the country.

Ford Expected to Begin Near Austerity Program

WASHINGTON — An president, Gerald R. Ford can be expected to follow the foreign and domestic policies of his predecessor but with a tougher, less expedient brand of conservatism.

Ford's aides, who have been planning his attack on the new administration's priority target, the sick American economy warn that Ford will use his first days in office to take "brutal measures" bordering on an austerity program.

Ford is expected to tackle the cycle of inflation and recession first not only because the problem is the most critical, in his view, but he and his closest advisers figure that his own presidency and his chances of leading a Republican victory in 1976 will rise or fall with the economy.

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United Press International obtained a copy of a letter sent to Ford by the group, who asked not to be identified.

It named 13 men "who might find favor as possible selections," and then suggested that Ford also consider Republican Edith Green, an Oregon Democrat who has become increasingly conservative in recent years.

Representative Ray Thornton, a Democratic member of the House Judiciary Committee that voted to impeach the president, said he regretted that Mr. Nixon had decided to resign but recognized that he had the right.

WASHINGTON — President Nixon's chances of surviving the Watergate scandal hopeless, Thursday night announced that he would resign today "in the national interest."

Vice President Gerald R. Ford will be sworn in as the country's 38th president at 11 a.m. (CDT) today by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, who was flying back from Europe to administer the oath.

The White House said that Mr. Nixon and his family would vacate the executive mansion Friday afternoon and fly to their San Clemente, Cal., home.

Mr. Nixon said he would "have preferred to have carried through the defense whatever personal agony . . . And my family unanimously urged me to do so."

He said he had concluded that "because of the Watergate matter" he might not now have the necessary support of Congress to continue in office.

"I have never been a quitter," he said. He said resigning before his second term was finished was "abhorrent" to all he held dear but as president, it was necessary for him to "look at America first."

Ford calls Mr. Nixon's 17-minute television speech at his Alexandria, Va., home. Fifteen minutes later he emerged to talk to reporters.

Speaking without notes, Ford told newsmen and 200 other persons standing in a light drizzle that he considered this "one of the most difficult and very saddest periods and one of the very saddest incidents I have ever witnessed."

Ford emphasized that his administration would pursue peace and he described Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger as "a great man."

America has many problems, Ford said, but "they can be resolved and will be resolved by the co-operation of the Congress, with the president and those who work with him."

Ford said that Mr. Nixon "made one of the greatest personal sacrifices for the country" by resigning as president.

Ford said he expected "a spirit of co-operation between the new president and the Congress."

Police Approve Honor to Nixon

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The 100,000-member American Federation of Police has voted the group's highest award to President Nixon.

Nixon, public relations director George Dumas announced Thursday.

Dumas, who also is founder and president of the Friends of the Presidents of America, an anti-impeachment group, said the timing of the announcement was not related to Mr. Nixon's current troubles.

Mr. Nixon was chosen for the honor because he is the "most outstanding American who has made the greatest contribution to a world peace," Dumas said.

Nixon Gathers Political Allies

McClellan on List For Final Meeting

WASHINGTON — As the hour for President Nixon's address to the country approached Thursday, he gathered some of his old and closest friends at the White House.

At 7:30 a.m. Thursday, White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler had told reporters that Mr. Nixon would meet with Democratic and Republican leaders in the evening.

But he did not tell them that others — ardent supporters from both political parties — also were being invited.

As the president's resignation appeared increasingly likely, the gathering assumed the appearance of law and not of men.

Text of Nixon resignation speech (Page 22A).
The Nixon years: the crises and successes (Page B-11A).
State Republicans are optimistic (Page 14A).
Arkansans react to resignation (Page 4A).
Jones suit transferred to Circuit Court (Page 1B).
Wholesale prices up 3.9 per cent in month (Page 18A).

Amusements 23-25A
Ann Landers 7-9A
Arkansas Traveler 10B
Billy Graham 1B
City News 11B
Classified Ads 6-7A
Comics, Crossword Puzzle 6B
Daily Record 11B
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Eleanor Lambert 28A
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Ify Gardner 5B
Leland DuVall 7B
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North Little Rock 10B
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River Bulletin 10B
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