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Ford takes Presidential oath; Nixon files to West Coast

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Gerald R. Ford today took the solemn oath as the 38th President of the United States, hoping to heal the wounds and divisions inflicted by the scandal that drove Richard M. Nixon from office.

Ford, sworn in by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, pledged that he will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

During the ceremony at the White House that assured America's traditional orderly transition of the reins of government, private citizens Nixon and his wife Pat were en route to San Clemente, Calif., aboard Air Force One.

Nixon's letter of resignation was delivered to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger at the time Nixon left Washington with his wife for California, two hours before Ford's oath-taking.

It was the first time in the 198 years of the republic that a president had to renounce his high office and resign amid scandal.

Before Nixon left on a gloomy, overcast summer day in Washington, he bade an emotional farewell to his grievestricken staff, Cabinet and his nation.

"We leave with high hopes in good spirit, and with deep humility and with very much

gratulence on our hearts," Nixon said, choking back tears on national television. "Thank you very much."

As Ford swung his brief oath, the American presidency changed hands to shed itself of scandal.

Nixon's resignation was necessary to avoid his certain removal from office by Congress. The new president, an unsmiling and plain-speaking Midwesterner, assumed awesome power that he never sought.

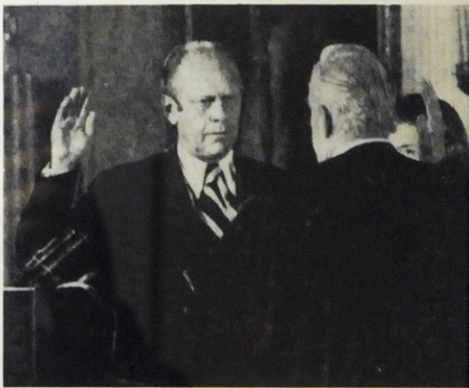
Thus, less than two years after the Richard Nixon-Spiro Agnew ticket rolled to the most massive landslide election in American presidential history, neither man was still in office.

Agnew resigned last October in disgrace, pleading no contest to a charge of income tax evasion. And now Nixon was gone, driven from office by Watergate, the most pervasive scandal in American political history.

Ford became the first president to assume his office without running on a national ballot. He intoned his oath with none of the trappings of the normal quadrennial inauguration—but also without the national grief and mourning that have accompanied previous oath-taking by other vice presidents.

Rather, the feeling in the nation was a sense of relief that a traumatic chapter of American history finally was over.

Congress and the people alike bore a sense of good will and hopes for success for their new president.



President Ford
Gerald R. Ford takes his oath as the 38th President of the United States in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House today. Administering the oath is Warren Burger, chief justice of the U.S. (UPI)



Farewell
Pres. Nixon waves with both arms as he boards helicopter on White House lawn today for the first leg of a flight to California after an emotional farewell to members of his staff. When he reaches California he will be a private citizen and Gerald Ford will be president of the United States. (UPI)

The Transition

Complete texts of Richard M. Nixon's resignation speech and Gerald Ford's speech Thursday night after the President announced his resignation begin on Page 3.

Other resignation-related stories include:

—An analysis of Nixon the politician, Page 9.

—Reaction of New England political leaders, Page 4.

—The question of legal immunity for Nixon is unresolved, Page 3.

—World reaction to the resignation, Page 5.

—Analysis of Nixon's foreign and domestic policies, Page 3.

The trauma ends—'man in the street' stoic, regretful

By MILTON MOORE
UNPRECEDENTED DAY of our nation's history, the day of resignation of President Richard M. Nixon, Main Street Hyannis was a strange blend of the mundane and the extraordinary. While shopkeepers washed their windows and set up on the morning of the most

(Continued on Page 8)

Mood is determined Ford confers with advisers

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In a mood of both sadness and determination, Gerald R. Ford took over the leadership of the nation today, consulting with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and other top advisers even before seeing Richard M. Nixon off to retirement in California.

Ford effectively assumed the reins of the American government early in the morning, well before his routine swearing in and the effective hour of Nixon's resignation as the 37th President.

The inaugural speech had been under preparation for several days in anticipation that Nixon would yield to congressional impeachment pressure to resign. Ford probably will make the traditional speech of a new President at a joint session of Congress Monday night, Sen. Hugh D. Hunt said late this morning.

Ford asked bipartisan leaders of Congress—whom he said he did not believe he had a single enemy for—the White House for his first

press conference following his swearing in.

Prior to waving goodbye to the Nixons as their helicopter left the White House two hours before his swearing in, Ford began a busy round of meetings, starting with Kissinger.

As the Nixon helicopter took off, Nixon's son-in-law, David Eisenhower, told Ford: "This is a great relief to the family. All the lack in the world."

Ford also summoned to an afternoon meeting top economic advisers, including Treasury Secretary William Simon, whom he apparently has asked to stay on, so he did Kissinger.

Ford was out of bed before the gray, humid day had fully dawned at his unpretentious Alexandria, Va., home which he will continue to occupy temporarily while the Nixons' Weather House is moved from the White House.

Ford was in a relaxed mood, and smiled easily as he answered questions of reporters waiting for him on his lawn. On the morning after Nixon announced his resignation, Ford said: "I don't think of the moon and the planets had all fallen on him when we thrust into the presidency by the death of Franklin Roosevelt."

"I think that's a very good description," Ford said, can tell you better after all this time when it actual happens. Asked when he might see reporters if he left as Harry Truman did in 1948 when said it was like "the sun in the moon and the planets had all fallen on him when we thrust into the presidency by the death of Franklin Roosevelt."

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GOP eyes long list of WP prospects

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Gerald R. Ford, thrust into presidency through no immediate fault of his own, is expected to solicit part of appointing a new president.

When he does, the nation will, for the first time, have a resident and vice president

who gained office without a national election.

But Ford's immediate problem is to name a vice president who not only will help heal the wounds of the nation but also those of the shattered Republican Party.

Former New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, former Attorney General Elliot Richardson and former Congressman Melvin Laird are considered leading prospects said a group of conservative Republican senators included them from a list given to Ford of 13 men

and one woman that it could support.

United Press International obtained a copy of the letter late Thursday from the author, who did not want to be named. He said at least 20

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Cape Codders express relief, anger over Nixon resignation

By THE STAFF
HYANNIS — Cape Codders reacted with mixed emotions today to President Richard M. Nixon's dramatic and unprecedented decision to resign.

In this conservative bastion of Bay State politics, there were many who felt that the President had been unfairly hounded out of office by his opponents and the press.

However, most local leaders expressed relief that the embattled President had decided to relinquish the reins of government to Vice President Gerald R. Ford and eagerly looked forward to a return to normalcy in the nation's capital.

President of the county Republican Club, said this morning.

"I backed Nixon all the way," he asserted, "but he himself had admitted some feeling that this is what he had to do."

He said that Ford will make a good president and predicted that "the country will get back on a normal course again quite quickly."

that "there can be no station in the removal from office of anyone elected by the people. It is a personal tragedy for the President and a severe loss to the very fiber of this country."

Kendall asserted that the resignation shows that "the people of the United States are very solid and that there is a strong respect in this country for the Constitution. I know the writer will unite behind the new administration and act as a bipartisan manner in the best interest of the people."

Sen. Bernard Walter, Jr., Centerville, suggested that Nixon might have been able to retain his position if he had laid all the facts about Watergate "out on the table" very early.

criticism. But I think it would have gotten in a point where it would have subsided, and he could have carried on."

"It was just a case of mismanagement," he said. "It is a sad time for all Americans," said Rep. Howard E. Caborn, R-Harwich. "They have seen the President resigning of an American President."

"That," he added, "we have to look on the brighter side. Hopefully, it will help to produce a higher integrity in all levels of government. Hopefully, the voters in the future will vote with more awareness than they have in the past. There just is no excuse for lack of integrity."

State Sen. John P. Aythya, R-Chilmarkville, is an active