

La Crosse Tribune

"We strive to find the truth and fearlessly print it"



Mostly cloudy and warm tonight, with chance of showers and thunderstorms, low near 62. Variable cloudiness and a little warmer Saturday, with showers and thunderstorms likely, high near 85. Sunday, mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms and low near 60.

Ford Takes Over As Nixon Steps Down From Presidency

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
WASHINGTON (AP) — A tearful Richard M. Nixon performed the final acts of his devastated presidency today, bidding sorrowful farewell to his Cabinet and aides, telling them that only a man in the deepest valley can know "how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain."

He told of reading, on his last night in the White House, the words of young Theodore Roosevelt upon the death of a daughter.
"It is his 20s thought the light had gone from his life forever, but he went on," Nixon said. "He was a man. And as I

"And so we leave in high hopes, in good spirits and in deep humility and with very much gratefulness in our hearts." — Richard M. Nixon, in his farewell address as president.

5 1/2 year presidency. His wife daughter Tricia and her husband Ed Cox were with him as they left for a home that is his. Wecker White House no more. The youngest daughter, Julie and her husband David Eisenhower stayed behind to help pack the family's belongings.

The Nixons had trod a red carpet from the White House to a waiting helicopter for the short hop to Andrews Air Force base and the presidential plane. The flight to California would take five hours.

One last time, as he stepped into the helicopter, the resigning President waved the two-handed V-for-victory sign he had flashed so many times before from hundreds of political platforms.

And at precisely 9 a.m. CDT, the helicopter rose into the misty Washington morning. His Cabinet and several hundred administration aides heard his East Room farewell, and saw him go. His successor, Gerald R. Ford, watched the takeoff.

Nixon's last White House words.

"And so we leave in high hopes, in good spirits and in deep humility and with very much gratefulness in our hearts. We come from many faiths, we pray perhaps to different gods, but really the same God in a sense."

"But I want to say for each and every one of you — not only will we always be grateful to you, always you will be in our hearts and in our prayers. Thank you very much."

The Nixon aides, many of whom had wept as their departing leader, stood in applause. Nixon's farewell to those closest to him was in marked contrast to the solemn formality of his resignation address to the nation Thursday night. It was intensely personal and intensely emotional.

leave, let me say that's an example I think all of us should remember. We think sometimes when things happen that don't go the right way, we think that when you don't pass the bar exam the first time, we think that when someone dear to us dies, we think that when we lose an election, we think that when we suffer a defeat that all is ended.

"We think as TR said that the light had left his life forever. Not true. It's only a beginning, always.

The young must know it, the old must know it. It must always sustain us because the greatness comes not when things go always good for you, but the greatness comes when you're disappointed, when you take some knocks.

"Only when you've been in the deepest valley can you know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain," Nixon said.

Nixon said he departed proud of the people "who have stood by us and worked for us and served this country. We want you to be proud of what you have done."

"Always remember, others may hate you but those who hate you don't win unless you hate them — and then you destroy yourself."

"This house has a great heart and the heart comes from those who serve," Nixon told his associates. With him were Mrs. Nixon, their daughters Julie and Tricia and their husbands.

Members of his shattered administration were there, too. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger, his Watergate lawyer James D. St. Clair.



LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE — Former president and Mrs. Richard Nixon (right) walk to a waiting helicopter accompanied by new President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford as Nixon prepared to leave the White House Friday morning. He flew to nearby Andrews Air Force Base, where he boarded Air Force One.

resignation. He told the nation Thursday night his resigning was an act personally abhorrent because I am not a quitter, but a decision mandated by the national interest.

Nixon acknowledged his base of support was gone, a casualty of scandal.

"I would have preferred to carry through to the finish whatever the personal agony it would have involved and my family unanimously urged me to do so," he said. "But in the interest of the nation must always

come before any personal considerations. The farewell address to the nation 16 minutes long, was delivered in a personal agency.

"Other stories on the life and reaction to his resignation as president are on Pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12."

"The cloud of Watergate is still hanging and there's nothing we can do about it," he said. The Rev. Billy Graham, a longtime Nixon supporter who frequently conducted religious services at the White House, said he felt sorry for Nixon and his family.

"His personal suffering must be almost unbearable," the minister said. "He deserves the prayers of even those who feel betrayed and let down. I pray that from this whole painful affair may be reborn a new commitment to God and His law in our national life."

John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia said, "Thank God we have a system of government where disclosures of impropriety can be made

and appropriate remedies taken. Elizabeth Lanty, 38, a Detroit school teacher and a Democrat, "was glued to the TV" during Nixon's nationally broadcast speech. She said, "I don't rejoice in his resignation, but I do find it gratifying to know that under our form of government conduct such as Nixon's cannot, should not and will not be tolerated. This was what the framers of the Constitution intended and it's most reassuring to see that it works."

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., vice chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, said Thursday's events "reflect an American tragedy of gigantic dimensions."

"Yet, even in the midst of this unprecedented

Congress Looks To Reconciliation Under Pres. Ford

By LAWRENCE L. KNUSTON
WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders of both parties said Thursday night they hope President Nixon's resignation will lead the nation out of the agony of Watergate and into an era of national reconciliation under the presidency of Gerald R. Ford.

They universally praised Ford and pledged wholehearted support as he begins his new administration.

Many Republicans and some Democrats said Republican election chances have greatly improved in the fall's House and Senate races.

Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania said Watergate had put the country on the "very edge of a nervous breakdown" but that the way is now open to a "healing method" — progress under Ford's leadership.

"I have the greatest sympathy for the President and his family but no sympathy at all for the dreadful conduct of those associates who helped to bring him to this pass," Scott said.

Assistant Senate Democratic leader Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia said Nixon's speech left many unanswered questions and they may always be unanswered.

You have a new man going in.

and think the natural reaction of the people in both parties is going to be to join and support him in his efforts to unify the country. Ford said, "I should think it would have a good impact on Republicans all over the country."

Assistant Senate Republican leader Robert Griffin of Michigan, who called for Nixon to resign early in the week, called Nixon's decision both agonizing and outrageous.

The night of Watergate is over, the Constitution is safe, and America can become whole again, said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

House Speaker Carl Albert, who met with Nixon just before his speech, quoted him as saying that he couldn't be President and sorry about Watergate too.

Here is other congressional and party comment on the change in leadership.

George Bush, chairman of the Republican National Committee, "Now is the time for a change in leadership. Let us all try to restore to our society a climate of civility. The battle is over."

Democrat National Committee chairman Robert Strauss said Democrats can take pride in the manner in which we have served the nation. We have been respon-

See CONGRESS P. 2

What's Inside

Nixon, Family Remembered

Tribune staff members recall meetings with Richard and Pat Nixon. Page 3

Nixon's Resignation

Nixon speech gives reasons for resigning, tells of accomplishments. Page 4

Graduation Comes First

WWU graduates express their opinions about Nixon's resignation. Page 13

Where To Find It

Editorials	6	Deaths	12
Focus	7	Ann Landers	14
Sports	10-11	Classified	15-17

See FORD P. 2

Defeat Of A Man, Triumph Of A System

By LOUISE COOK

Associated Press Writer

The defeat of a man and the triumph of a system of government that has stood for almost 200 years.

"That was what some Americans saw in the resignation of Richard Milhous Nixon as President."

said Chesterfield Smith, president of the American Bar Association and a frequent critic of Nixon on Watergate.

"We can, however, find comfort in the fact that when our system for the administration of justice was tested — by perhaps its greatest challenge of all time — that system proved equal to the task."

Asked whether Nixon should be subject to civil and criminal prosecution, Smith said, "We do not have time for vengeance. It is the time to come together and the time to go forward."

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How They Remember Nixon And Family

Pat Nixon's Faith In The American Dream Recalled

Nixon Is Not Same Man, Tribune Editor Recalls

By JAN MCCLAIN
Women's Editor

Six years ago last night, Pat Nixon watched her husband accept the Republican party's nomination for President of the United States. It no doubt was a joyful event in her life after living through Nixon's 1960 defeat and later defeat in his bid for the governorship of California.



Pat Nixon

Both defeats were experiences Mrs. Nixon cared not to discuss while in La Crosse in 1968. They were in the past, and Mrs. Nixon was looking to a future which climaxed yesterday as what could be termed the Nixon family's saddest day.

Yet Mrs. Nixon wasn't feeling some sense of relief today as the pressures that have surrounded the White House take a downhill swing.

Mrs. Nixon was unlike wives of other presidential candidates — such as Eleanor McCloy — who later campaigned in La Crosse in that she refused to discuss political issues.

There was no reason to doubt that Mrs. Nixon was speaking with sincerity and conviction, but today she ceased to be the nation's First Lady because enough people believe her husband did not operate within the law in carrying out his duties as president.

It is possible she did, but it is more likely that Mrs. Nixon, like others who have been in the political arena in years past, accepted the rules of the game played to get elected and remain in office.

Time may determine whether she should have stated her beliefs in truth and honesty to her husband as well as her children and the American people.

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Tribune Photo

NIXON VISITS — Richard Nixon, campaigning in the spring presidential primary election, appeared in La Crosse in February 1968. Photo was taken in the publisher's office at the old Tribune building.

Specter Of Prosecution Still Haunting Nixon

By MARGARET GENTRY

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard Nixon quit the presidency without immunity from prosecution, leaving him vulnerable to a host of criminal charges.

The lead role in bringing an indictment against Nixon after he leaves office would fall to special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski, said Thursday night there has been no deal struck for his resignation.

at work. But legal experts say no indictment could survive unless signed by Jaworski, or if he refuses, by Atty. Gen. William French Smith.

Saxe said on Wednesday the decision to immunize Nixon rests with Jaworski, whose charter of office gives him "full authority for investigating and prosecuting allegations involving the President."

It is a tragic moment in history for the Nixon family as well as the nation, but we are inclined to think Mrs. Nixon's greatest concern will be to protect her children in the light of her duties as mother.

A woman whose eyes sparkled when she spoke of her two daughters and the young people of America, Mrs. Nixon believed that "parents should set an example that will show children the right to being good citizens."

She hoped to initiate a First Lady project geared to exposing young people to the nation's heroes. "I would like to promote education through documentary films that would emphasize the American dream and teach to young people," she said in a 1968 primary election speech.

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Jaworski said nothing about whether he would be influenced by the congressional response to the issue.

But the movement toward a resolution urging that Nixon be spared appeared to have collapsed with Brooke's statement.

By SANFORD GOLTZ
Opinion Page Editor

I'VE HAD OCCASION to spend some time with Richard Nixon at close range three times, dating back to 1952. And try as I may, I can't connect that man — in speech, consensus, an obvious discipline in thought processes — with the hesitant, fumbling Richard Nixon that has emerged in recent months from those transcripts of Oval Office conversations with his staff.

He made one speech, as I recall, at the Republican National Convention in Chicago that confirmed Gen. Eisenhower's choice of the would-be senator as his running mate. It was a talk geared to a partisan gathering of delegates who were convinced they had a winner in the Alger Hiss case, gave them the upbeat pep talk they wanted.

That October my State Journal city editor had to be seen with a national candidate in Virginia, there were passenger trains out of the state capital in those days to Superior, to ride the Nixon campaign train south the next morning. There were a couple of press crews of reporters and photographers, and state party people and local candidates getting on and off to be seen with a national candidate.

Old hands at covering major league politicians were impressed, as I was, with how Nixon handled himself. Few notes, or none. Words of praise for GOP candidates to Congress or the legislature. A brisk attack on "Communism, corruption and Korea," a pledge of better times and honest government.

The working press had reason to think highly of the man in terms of coverage. Before each stop, an aide whipped out a few quotes from what Nixon would be saying — and the quotes all showed up, skillfully worked into a five- or 10-minute back platform delivery. Well timed, and no notes.

change that Nixon was a can't-win candidate. Foreign affairs obviously was his greatest interest, and he stressed the importance of better relations with Asian powers, including Red China, and trade with the Soviet Union.

That night he pretty well filled Mary E. Sawyer Auditorium, and it was a masterful performance. With nothing but a microphone before him, he held forth for close to an hour on world affairs and his ideas of dealing with the problems, starting with Vietnam. He had some sharp words for Ramsey Clark, President Johnson's attorney general, little knowing what kind of troubles he'd have with that office himself a few years later.

Wisconsin and the Coulee Region always have been pretty good Nixon country. He carried this county, and the state, in 1960 when he lost to John Kennedy.

Six years ago, the Nixon-Agnew ticket carried the state by 61,000 votes against Hubert Humphrey and Ed Muskie. In La Crosse County it was 17,400 to 11,600, and neighboring counties were equally strong for the G.O. ticket.

My last chat with Richard Nixon, by then President, was in the spring of 1969, when several hundred editors and news writers were guests for an evening at the White House. A few exceptions, he recalled when he was last in an editor's home (and perhaps in the newspaper office), and what sort of audience he had.

But even in the receiving line and knowing that he held the office he had sought so long, I had the feeling that he wasn't quite sure he belonged. Pat Nixon, radiant and prettier than most photos show her, was more at ease.

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Party Chairmen React To Resignation Speech

By Tribune Correspondents

Steiner of Crawford County, praised Nixon's foreign policy to resign to watergate. Party chairmen weren't available for comment.

Trastad said that it "would be difficult to go through with the impeachment proceedings. He said he was a bit disappointed that Nixon did not profess either a guilt or intention in the Watergate situation."

Trastad noted that last fall, when Nixon fired Archibald Cox, his own Watergate investigator, he (Trastad) thought "there was something in the air."

Called a meeting of the Vernon County Democratic Party chairman executive committee," he said. "The committee called on the impachment of President Nixon."

He did the right thing for the nation by resigning now," said Whitehall Mayor Lambert Grozems. "My belief is that President Nixon should be tried for his wrongdoings to get all the facts out through a court process."

William Knudston, manager of a Whitehall restaurant, said that it's a "sad thing that had to come about."

Area Residents React With Mixed Emotions

By Tribune Correspondents

President Richard M. Nixon's resignation met with reactions of relief from many area residents, during the 1968 campaign if they were ready for the pressures that would be imposed by the office.

"He tried to leave good thoughts with people," she said. "He knew this speech would go down in history and he wanted to say the right thing."

Max Epstein of Millton, "I think the country will benefit by his resignation since it will give us a psychological impetus. We've had our fill of negative aspects and now we look to the positive and future with confidence."

"I think it should have happened sooner," said Oscar Hirschfeld, R-2, Vircoqua, a retired construction worker. "The investigation is costing the taxpayers a great deal of money. That's worse than a crossword puzzle what's going on down there."

Miss Stolder, who is active in the Democratic party, said it's "inevitable that he would resign. I thought that since it was just a matter of time."

A Weebly resident, Walter Melhus said, "In a way, it looked kind of sad. But I think he was a wrongdoer and it was best that he go out."

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Text Of President Nixon's Resignation Address

WASHINGTON (AP) — Following is the text of President Nixon's resignation address to the nation Thursday night.

Good Evening. This will be the 7th time I will have spoken to you from this office where so many decisions have been made that shaped the history of this nation.

Each time I have done so to discuss with you some matters which I believed affected the national interest. In all the decisions I have made in my public life I have always tried to do what was best for the nation.

Throughout the long and difficult period of Watergate, I have felt it was my duty to persevere and to make every possible effort to complete the kind of office to which you elected me.

In the past few days, however, it has become evident to me that I no longer have a strong enough political base in the Congress to justify continuing that effort.

As long as there was such a base, I felt strongly that it was necessary to see the constitutional process through to its conclusion; to do otherwise would be unfaithful to the spirit of that deliberately difficult process, and a dangerously destabilizing precedent for the future.

But with the disappearance of that base I now believe that the constitutional purpose has been served and there is no longer a need for the process to be prolonged.

I would have preferred to carry through to the finish no matter the personal agony that would have been involved. And my family unanimously urged me to do so.

But the interest of the nation must always come before my personal consideration.

From the discussions I have had with congressional and other leaders, I have concluded that because of the Watergate matter I might not have the support of the Congress that I would need to carry out the very difficult decisions and carry out the duties of this office in the way the interests of the nation will require.

I have never been a quitter. To leave office before my term is completed is abhorrent to every instinct in my body.

As President I must put the interests of America first. America needs a full-time president and a full-time Congress, particularly at this time with problems we face at home and abroad.

By taking this action, I hope the months ahead for my personal vindication would almost totally absorb the time and attention of both the President and the Congress in a period when our entire focus should be on the great issues of peace abroad and prosperity without inflation at home.

Therefore, I shall resign the presidency effective at noon tomorrow.

The President Ford will be sworn in as president at that hour in this office.

As I recall the high hopes for this office worked in your behalf, this second time I feel a great sadness that I will not be here in this office working in your behalf to achieve those hopes in the next two and a half years.

But in turning over direction of the government to Vice President Ford, I know, as I told the

nation when I nominated him for that office 10 months ago, that the leadership of America will be in good hands.

In passing this office to the vice president, I also do so with the profound sense of the weight of responsibility that will fall on his shoulders tomorrow and, therefore, understanding the patience, the cooperation he would need from all.

As he assumes that responsibility, he will deserve the help and the support of all of us. As we look to the future, the first essential is to begin healing the wounds of this nation, to put the bitterness and the divisions of the recent past behind us and to rediscover those shared ideals that lie at the heart of our strength and unity as a great and free people.

I regret deeply any injuries that may have been done in the course of the events that led to this decision. I would say only that if some of my judgments were wrong, and some were wrong, they were made in what I believed at the time to be the best interest of the nation.

To those who have stood with me during these past difficult months, to my family, my friends, to many others who joined in supporting my cause because they believed it was right, I will be eternally grateful for your support.

And to those who have not felt able to give me your support, let me say I leave you no bitterness toward those who have opposed me, because all of us, in the final analysis, have been concerned with the good of the country, however our judgments might differ.

So let us all join together in affirming that common commitment and in helping our new President succeed for the benefit of all Americans.

I shall leave this office with regret at not completing my term, but with gratitude for the privilege of serving as your President for the past five and half years. These years have been a momentous time in the history of our nation and the world. They have been a time of



President Nixon announces his resignation. Gerald Ford became President at Noon Today.

achievement in which we can all be proud, achievements that represent the shared efforts of the administration, the Congress and the people.

But the challenges ahead are equally great, and they, too, will require the support and the efforts of the Congress and the people working in cooperation with the new administration.

We have ended America's longest war, but in the work of securing a lasting peace in the world, the goals ahead are even more far-reaching and more difficult.

We must complete a structure of peace so that it will be said of

this generation, our generation, of people who live in terrible poverty, even starvation, by all nations, not only that we ended our war, but that we prevented future wars.

We have unlocked the doors that for a quarter of a century stood between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

We must now insure that the one quarter of the world's people who live in the People's Republic of China will be and remain not our enemies but our friends.

In the Middle East, one hundred million people in the Arab countries, many of whom have considered us their enemy for nearly 20 years, now look on us as their friends. We must achieve, prosperity without inflation.

For more than a quarter of a century in public life I have shared in the turbulent history of this era. I have fought for what I believed in. I have tried to be the best of my ability to discharge those duties and meet those responsibilities that were entrusted to me.

Sometimes I have succeeded and sometimes I have failed, but these terrible weapons so that they cannot destroy our civilization and so that the threat of nuclear war will no longer hang over the world stare the people valiantly, who err and come short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming, but who does actually strive to do the deeds, who knows the great in cooperation rather than confrontation.

Around the world, in Asia, and Africa and Latin America, in the Middle East, there are millions

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the worst, if he fails, it is least false while daring greatly.

I pledge to you tonight that as long as I have a breath of life in my body, I shall continue in that spirit, I shall continue to work for the great causes to which I have been dedicated throughout my years as a congressman, a senator, a vice president and President of America but among all nations, prosperity, justice and liberty, but also the means to live full and good and, by the world's standards, even abundant lives.

We must press on, however, to a goal of not only more and better jobs, but of full opportunity for every American, and of what we are striving so hard right now to achieve, prosperity without inflation.

For more than a quarter of a century in public life I have shared in the turbulent history of this era. I have fought for what I believed in. I have tried to be the best of my ability to discharge those duties and meet those responsibilities that were entrusted to me.

Sometimes I have succeeded and sometimes I have failed, but these terrible weapons so that they cannot destroy our civilization and so that the threat of nuclear war will no longer hang over the world stare the people valiantly, who err and come short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming, but who does actually strive to do the deeds, who knows the great in cooperation rather than confrontation.

Around the world, in Asia, and Africa and Latin America, in the Middle East, there are millions

Relief, Regret Expressed Over Nixon Stepdown

By SANFORD GOLTZ

Opinion Page Editor

A measure of relief that the uncertainty is ended, a twinge of sympathy for Richard Nixon's fall, regret that his case didn't get a Senate trial.

That's a broad consensus of low La Crosse business, civic and labor leaders reacted to our first presidential resignation.

As for the nation's new President, they're not optimistic that the change at the top will bring any quick solutions to the nation's domestic problems. But they feel that now the national leadership and the American people can give those problems their full attention.

"It was a tremendous speech, considering the circumstances," said Lyle W. Anderson, president of the Greater La Crosse Chamber of Commerce and president of the National Bank of Wisconsin in La Crosse, referring to "Mr. Nixon's address last night."

"From the time it was proposed that he resign, it was opposed to the idea. But if it speeds things up and gets things moving, maybe it's for the best. I'm not persuaded that it will solve anything, as for inflation, only Congress can stop it. Nixon tried to withhold funds, but with Congress and the courts, what could he do?"

"Ford may have better rapport with Congress, but for how long?"

Thomas Hancock, board chairman of the Trane Co., felt it was a terrible situation, whatever the cause, that a president had to resign, particularly since the guilt was assumed, not proven.

"It's a sad thing for the country. It won't solve our problems, but in the short term it will put people back to the business of solving them," Hancock said. "It was fortunate that a man like Gerald Ford was in line to take

over.

"I have a high regard for Gerald Ford's personal integrity, and that's what we need right now," said Russell Cleary, president of G. Heileman Brewing Co. "The people we know in Washington who have worked with Mr. Ford call him first rate."

Cleary said that Nixon handed his farewell speech well, with no animosity. His troubles had "drawn attention away from the business of running the country," and Ford's succession "might instill some confidence," Cleary said.

It was the only thing he could do for the good of the country," said Bruce Hines, president of First Federal Savings and Loan and former Chamber president.

"It's a shame it couldn't have been solved a couple of years ago, regardless of how he was involved. Maybe we can roll forward now."

Dale Freehoff, president of Trane Lodge 21 of the Machineists Union, called the resignation "a necessary step, but it was too late. We've had to progress to a point where this step was necessary." As to President Ford, Freehoff is "willing to see what he has to offer, one way or the other."

Elmer Seebold, business agent for Teamsters Local 192, said that "it shouldn't have happened," but declined to elaborate. The international brotherhood supported Mr. Ford for re-election in 1972.

La Crosse Mayor W. Peter Gilbertson thinks that "Nixon cheated us by resigning."

"I wanted to see if impeachment would do his job. I would have let the people participate," Gilbertson thinks that former New York Gov. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller helped plot the President's downfall because he

was "still rankled" at losing the presidential nomination in 1968.

Dr. George Gilkey, chairman of the history department at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, said that his preference would have been for the impeachment process "to go all the way." The President's acts might have been justified in a trial—or not—while now there is a cloud of doubt in many Americans' minds.

"I have great faith in our system," Gilkey said. "We'll come out of it. We get all shook up by a crisis, and we should, but things seem to come out all right."

John Elliott, long time owner of the Stoddard Hotel where Mr. and Mrs. Nixon stayed on a campaign visit to La Crosse in the spring of 1968, thought "they should have waited" on resignation.

There were a few expressions of "regret" and



FORD IN LA CROSSE — New President Gerald Ford (right) is shown here as he appeared during a campaign stop and fund-raising visit to La Crosse on April 16, 1972.

Council Halts Proceedings To Hear Talk

A suburbal La Crosse Common Council moved quickly through its monthly business last night, pausing to watch the telecast of President Nixon's resignation speech.

The aldermen recessed their meeting to view the speech on a small-screen portable placed on the desk of Mayor W. Peter Gilbertson.

Their reactions to Nixon's act varied widely.

"He forced Agnew to resign," said Joseph Addis (10th Dist.). He did not protest his innocence. He did not admit any moral guilt. He did not admit any moral guilt. He did not admit any moral guilt.

To a police officer, Nixon should not say "I have great faith in our system," Gilkey said. "We'll come out of it. We get all shook up by a crisis, and we should, but things seem to come out all right."

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Nixon's Peace Efforts Cited By GOP Officials

By LEWARD C. LEE

Tribune Staff Writer

Both 3rd District Rep. Vernon Thomson, R-Richland Center, and Walter Baltz Jr. of West Salem, 3rd District GOP chairman, expressed Thursday night their belief that Richard Nixon's efforts for peace in Vietnam would be continued under the new administration.

Both had high praise for Nixon's achievements in office.

Following Nixon's resignation speech, Thomson said, "He inherited a nation embroiled in a no-win jungle war which was sapping the nation's strength and he ended our involvement in it."

"He is the acknowledged leader in the effort to build a durable world peace. He initiated a new era of peaceful interchange with the Soviet Union and opened the 'Bamboo Curtain' to Mainland China."

"We said President Nixon has cooled the volatile Middle East."

Baltz compared the People's Republic of China to the "proverbial giant with feet of clay standing in quicksand."

"That is to say," he said, "they may be unsure just exactly how events are going to progress from here." But, he added, "they knew Richard Nixon, they could talk to Richard Nixon, and I would imagine that the first thing President Gerald Ford will do will be to reassure them he will make it absolutely clear that Dr. (Henry) Kissinger will continue to stand at the helm of our foreign policy."

While admitting the "stigma" of Watergate which always will be attached to the Nixon administration, Thomson said, "We must not forget the equally historic acts for good which they accomplished."

"He ended the draft and established an all-volunteer Army. He began an overdue decentralization of power away from Washington to the state and local levels with revenue sharing. These policies won landslide support from the people in the most issue-oriented campaign in recent memory."

Baltz, too, said President Nixon made some wrong judgments and admitted it.

Asked if in his opinion the President's resignation was the right thing to do, Baltz replied, "Personally, for the country, the party and for Richard Nixon, yes, I believe he did the right thing."

Speaking in the same vein, the congressman said, "The President's resignation will allow the

nation to put the squalor of Watergate behind us and allow us to focus our energies on the critical task of controlling inflation and restoring public confidence in government."

He added, "A presidential resignation is unprecedented in our system of government, but the President's admitted involvement in the Watergate cover-up irrevocably cost him the confidence of the nation."

"Commenting on the brevity of Nixon's speech of resignation, Baltz said, 'Basically, the President said what he wanted to say and was perfectly frank about his stand until his base of support in Congress had eroded to such a degree that to continue was futile.'

"Admitting the 'pitfalls and errors' which Nixon fell into, Baltz said, "I think it is absolutely imperative that we realize the fantastic success he's had in cultivating relationships with the people of China, and bringing peace to the Middle East and Vietnam, at least in direct American involvement."

Thomson expressed the utmost faith in Ford.

"It is fortunate, indeed," he said, "that the nation can look to a man like Jerry Ford to assume the awful responsibilities of leading our country. I know Jerry Ford very well from our 13 years of service together in the House. He is a man of the highest integrity. He knows people and he knows the Congress and should greatly reduce the hostility which has developed between the Congress and the executive branch."

Asked about the prospect of immunity, Baltz said, "It's interesting to note that the same people who are going about waving the banner of no immunity are conversely that very group which in constantly begging for amnesty."

As for Ford's choice of vice president, Baltz said that "first and foremost, I have respect and appreciation for it. Sen. Edward Brooke of Massachusetts."

"However," he added, "I must admit I am prejudiced in favor of our home state man, Melvin Laird."

He said also that Rep. Albert Guo, (R-Denver), representing Minnesota's 1st Congressional district, is an "excellent potential candidate."

Thomson had not yet expressed an opinion as to a choice for vice president.

The state executive committee of the Wisconsin Republican Party was to meet at Wisconsin Delta today.

Baltz commented, "I imagine things will be pretty interesting."

'All The Trees Will Fall'—Watergate Burglar

By SAUL PETT

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was James McCord, one of the Watergate burglars, who predicted that before the scandal was over, "all the trees in the forest will fall."

The tallest fell Thursday night.

Richard Nixon, the first president in history to be driven from office by scandal, said he was leaving because "the Watergate matter" had eroded his support in Congress. He explained the erosion no further. Perhaps it was expecting too much of a departing president to acknowledge publicly that secretly anyone in Congress believed him anymore.

It was a curious farewell in several ways. Once he had led it as a member through his daughter, that he would fight removal from office "down to the last vote in the Senate." At other times he has said, "I love the battle" of politics

and the presidency.

Thursday night he said, "I would have preferred to carry through to the finish whatever the personal agony it would have involved... but the interest of the nation must always come before any personal considerations."

He seemed to be saying he was giving up the agony in a higher cause. But then he also said he was going up the fight "for personal vindication."

"Therefore..." Here Richard Nixon paused and swallowed. It was the one tiny visible moment where he appeared to reveal emotion that needed to be controlled. Then, "I shall resign the presidency effective at noon tomorrow."

It was in complete control, again, once again "the coolest man in the room," a description he has applied to himself at a crisis point.

There were a few expressions of "regret" and

"deep sadness" at leaving office prematurely before he could reach his goals. But, generally, those remembering his "Checkers" speech 22 years ago and his "I am not a crook" statement nine months ago found the farewell curiously bland, content and delivery.

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the wounds of this nation; to put the bitterness and the divisions of the recent past behind us."

Nixon said that by resigning he hoped to hasten the healing which is so desperately needed in America. "It was the same reason Lyndon B. Johnson gave on March 31, 1968, in announcing he would not seek reelection.

It was one in a multitude of ironies.

On Jan. 20, 1973, an evangelical Richard Nixon, who called himself the "quarterback and coach" of a team that needed to be "whipped up," circulated this note to his staff:

"Every moment of history is a fleeting time, precious and unique. The presidential term which begins today consists of 1,461 days — no more and no less. It is a passing revelation to mistakes. When we lose, lose, lose."

When he took office in 1969, Richard Nixon promised to "bring us together." Thursday night he admitted he had not. The outgoing President said the first essential of the administration of Gerald R. Ford "is to begin healing

the wounds of this nation; to put the bitterness and the divisions of the recent past behind us."

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stand out as great days for America and great moments in the history of mankind."

He did open the door to China. He did go to Moscow. But there were only 569 days left, not 1,461. Watergate already was seven months old.

Six years ago Thursday, Richard Nixon was nominated for president and told the wildly cheering delegates in Miami that he was accepting not only a man but a symbol of miraculous political comeback.

"America is in trouble today not because her people have failed but because her leaders have failed."

And in the campaign that followed he promised to restore public respect for the Office of the President.

Thursday night, the cancer of cover-up became terminal.

Political Miracle Is Ended



RUNNING MATES — Their wives stood by their sides in July 1952 as Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon responded to cheers after their nominations as candidates for president and vice president at the GOP national convention in Chicago.

Demo Congress, Nixon Battle

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon, the first 20th century chief executive to serve with his party never in control of Congress, spent much of his tenure fighting with congressional Democrats over the Vietnam war and domestic spending.

More often than not, Nixon won. The Senate, whose substantial Democratic majority included most of the party's major national figures, battled the Republican President repeatedly. The House more often supported him.

Only after the October 1973 outbreak of Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox did House Democrats move against Nixon, launching the first formal impeachment proceeding against a president since the 1868 move against Andrew Johnson.

By mid-1974, the drive for impeachment completely overshadowed other aspects of Nixon's relations with Congress. Many Republicans, fearing a GOP disaster at the polls in November, set themselves at some distance from the deal with the White House.

Even GOP conservatives, Nixon's most solid line of support, became critical when the President signed a bill to create an independent government corporation to provide legal services for the poor.

Earlier, most GOP members had stood loyally behind Nixon on both domestic and foreign matters. In the area of national security, Nixon won support during his term for expensive new weapons systems, and was able to pass measures to force U.S. withdrawal from Indochina until he had done it himself.

presidential powers to commit American troops abroad. In contrast with the vast food of new domestic programs that marked the previous Johnson administration, Nixon pushed very little domestic legislation through Congress.

A major exception was a \$30.2-billion revenue sharing program enacted in 1972 under which federal funds are returned to state and local governments.

Nixon's other major domestic proposals, reform of the welfare system and a vast restructuring of the federal bureaucracy, were rejected by Congress.

But congressional votes of spending bills he considered too costly, especially for health and education, generally failed as enough Republicans and Southern Democrats backed Nixon to prevent his foes from mustering the needed two-thirds majorities.

Nevertheless, the federal deficit soared and the administration and Congress blamed each other. An 18-month effort to create new congressional machinery to deal with the budget was completed in July 1974. Nixon signed the measure into law even though it restricted his authority to impound appropriated funds.

Despite partisan division, Congress gave Nixon power to increase independent government or provide wage-price controls, an option he exercised in August 1973 after saying earlier he did not want such power.

and federal loans to households and small businesses. A few days later Nixon submitted a second version of the bill. However, the energy crisis eased and the administration eventually said it did not need the legislation.

Two major pieces of tax legislation were enacted during Nixon's first term. A \$9.1 billion tax reform bill in 1969 and a \$15.8 billion tax cut in 1971.

Other legislation enacted during Nixon's tenure converted the Postal Service into an independent corporation and lowered the voting age to 18. Congress also enacted a campaign reform bill that resulted in 1973 the most complete disclosure of campaign financing at the national level.

In four bills, each bigger than the administration wanted, Congress also raised Social Security benefits 85 per cent and hiked payroll taxes to cover increased costs.

Unemployment compensation coverage was extended in 1970 to 17 million additional workers and a comprehensive bill was passed to protect the health and safety of workers.

However, Nixon was able to block by a veto a 1973 bill that would have provided the first increase in seven years in the federal minimum wage, from the current \$1.60 an hour to \$2.20 an hour.

and wouldn't work, failed on a 50-50 tie vote to slow its strategic. Eventually, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union resulted in a cutback in the ABM system.

In the spring of 1970, Nixon's dispatch of U.S. troops into Cambodia sparked efforts to force withdrawal of U.S. forces from all Indochina.

By the end of the year, the Senate won House concurrence in the first enacted limits on the U.S. role in Southeast Asia, a flat ban on U.S. combat troops in Laos and Thailand and restrictions on U.S. aid to Cambodia.

Three times in 1971, the Senate overcame the House administration's opposition and passed measures calling for total U.S. withdrawal from Indochina.

Each time, aided by a friendly Democratic leadership, the administration won in the House. In the election year of 1972, however, U.S. withdrawals from Vietnam accelerated and the Senate voted for forcing withdrawal of two more end-of-the-war agreements passed by the Senate only to die in the House, before the Senate voted 45 to 42 in September against withdrawal.

In 1973, when the Vietnam peace agreement was followed by continued U.S. bombing in Cambodia, congressional majorities moved to end it. With House support for such a move, Nixon was able to override a presidential veto a level already reached in the Senate. Nixon bowed in late June and agreed to an Aug. 15 cessation of all U.S. military activity, in, over or off the shores of Indochina.

perhaps a good sense of timing, in working with Henry A. Kissinger to promote rapprochement with mainland China and détente with the Soviet Union — moves that would have aroused intense opposition a few years earlier.

Nixon brought to the White House a long-established reputation as a hard-headed fighter from past campaigns. However, except for a brief and ineffectual fling in the 1970 off-year elections, he largely eschewed the harsh rhetoric of the past.

Tough campaign tactics — some critics called them dirty tricks — marked the early Nixon on the stump. He played so Truman threatened in the 1950s to punch him on sight.

Controversy became a hallmark of campaigns that brought a youthful Nixon to successive seats in the House and Senate. A Navy veteran returned from the South Pacific, lawyer Nixon entered politics in 1946 by invitation.

Many Humphrey partisans contended that Nixon would have won had the campaign continued for another week with Nixon sticking to his play-it-safe strategy.

Similarly, Nixon appeared to lose away an excellent opportunity to challenge the presidency over John F. Kennedy in 1960. As the incumbent, Republican vice president for two years, Nixon came closer to being a household name, and at the start of the campaign, enjoyed a 53-47 Gallup edge over Kennedy.

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line, Nixon won with better than 59 per cent of the vote, again accused of unfair campaign tactics. The young Californian had served only 18 months in the Senate when a political amateur, Dwight D. Eisenhower, chose him as his GOP running mate in the 1952 campaign.

The ticket seemed unbeatable but was rudely jolted when it was disclosed that a group of California businessmen had contributed \$18,225 to a fund to help Eisenhower.

The crisis reached a climax when Nixon, deciding to make a fight of it, went on national television to defend himself with his famous "Checkers speech," so-called because of a reference he made to the family's cocker spaniel.

A Navy penny of the \$18,000 or any money of that type went for my personal use," he declared.

It was an emotional, carefully staged performance, and it worked. "You're my boy," said a relieved Eisenhower and, at 39, Nixon became the youngest vice president in 86 years of American history.

But Nixon could not resist the pull of the campaign scene. He kept busy stamping for Republican candidates every other autumn and, in the process, stored up political debts that he collected to settle his 1958 comeback.

Deciding to sit out the 1964 campaign on the assumption that Kennedy would again be the Democratic nominee, Nixon opted to run for governor of California in 1962. The governorship would be a vehicle for keeping him out of presidential politics in '64 and open the way for a fresh presidential bid in 1968.

Polls convinced Nixon he had a good chance to oust the state's incumbent Democratic governor, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Sr. But the election returned a prober otherwise and prompted an embittered Nixon to hold what came to be known as his morning-after "last press conference."

Nixon's renunciation of politics seemed complete. He gave up his home base in California and moved to New York to become a Wall Street lawyer.

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"You're my boy" — Presidential candidate Dwight Eisenhower said of Richard Nixon after his "Checkers speech" in 1952.

"Quite a ruthless opponent." — Jerry Voorhis said after Richard Nixon defeated him in the 1946 House campaign in California.

CONCEDES DEFEAT — "This is my last press conference," Richard M. Nixon said in Los Angeles on Nov. 7, 1962 after he conceded defeat in the California gubernatorial election.

Watergate, Tapes Bring Down Nixon

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL

WASHINGTON (AP) — Watergate was merely a footnote on the Nixon presidency as first an aberration in his re-election campaign. But it grew, angrily into a scandal that stonewalling couldn't hide and presidential power couldn't stop.

While the skeleton of the story was unearthed piecemeal, the full involvement of the Nixon men in the break-in and cover-up was known only to themselves for nine months after five men crept into Democratic party headquarters to bug and pry.

But then, in the incredible months of March and April 1973, the silence was breached and the scandal burst over men in the highest councils of government, finally staining President Nixon himself.

The President might have hidden it out, as he did so many other personal challenges, had it not been for his fatal decision in 1971 to activate an unseen tape-recording system designed to preserve every word said while he was in his offices.

Nixon's stubborn refusal to yield those tapes brought the first full-blown cry for his impeachment. And it was the tapes themselves, with their revelations of knowledge and subtlety that produced the most damning evidence against Nixon and the men who sur-

rounded him. Watergate quickly became a code word for scandals that evoked a bewildering catalogue of alleged misdeeds, bringing Nixon's leadership and honesty into question. But it remained the poisonous core. Eventually a grand jury would find probable cause to believe the President was involved in a criminal conspiracy to thwart the Watergate investigation.

Nixon had promised cooperation with investigators, but yielded tapes and documents only when other alternatives had failed. He exhausted every avenue, from ignoring congressional subpoenas to fighting his case in the Supreme Court. And after the House Judiciary Committee recommended an article of impeachment based on the subpoena and the Supreme Court ruled against him, Nixon admitted he withheld three crucial tapes, "a serious act of omission for which I take full responsibility and which I deeply regret."

Until then, the President had continually asserted his innocence, battling a crisis of confidence that nibbled inexorably at his public support. In August 1973, he spoke of a "backward-looking obsession with Watergate." In November, the nation had the spectacle of a defensive President declaring "I am not a crook."

In January 1974, he used the State of the Union message to declare "one year of Watergate is enough," and to assure the nation that "I have no intention whatever of ever walking away from the job that the people elected me to do for the people of the United States." — President Nixon in his State of the Union Message in January 1974.

Under the direction of two former White House aides, G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr., five men with CIA backgrounds twice broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the plush Watergate office complex. The first entry on Memorial Day 1972 was to plant bugs and photograph files. The second, on July 17 — when the burglars were already being hunted by transmitter malfunction and to copy more documents.

The burglars were found to have been paid with funds from the Committee for the Re-

election of the President, which as a result won the popular acronym CREPE. The mission, according to some testimony, was approved by former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell, Nixon's onetime law partner and campaign director. The fruits of the wiretaps went to the committee and, according to some of the testimony, into the White House.

Full House of Representatives testified that when Nixon learned of the break-in he was so furious that he had them an airway across the room at Key Biscayne and was just outraged over the fact that anybody even remotely connected with the campaign organization would have anything to do with something like this.

But the June 23 Nixon tape shows he ordered a halt to the FBI's probe of the break-in, didn't want to "second guess Mitchell and the rest." He said later, "I was aware of the advantages this course of action would have with respect to limiting possible public exposure of involvement by persons connected with the re-election committee."

Press Secretary Ronald L. Pressley was the first to describe the incident at the time as a "third-rate burglary." But the chiefs of the White House, in Washington to discuss their

moves. The President insisted from early on, "The White House had had no involvement in this particular incident," in August he said that was confirmed in an investigation conducted by counsel John W. Dean III.

Dean was to say later he conducted no investigation and that he worked overtime to thwart the probe.

In September 1972, seven men were indicted for burglary and wiretapping and conspiracy. Nixon complained Dean had kept him in the dark every time that leaks have sprung here and sprung there.

By March 1973, two of the seven had been tried and convicted, the other five having pleaded guilty. Reporters asked few Watergate questions; nothing was volunteered.

defendants, subpoenaing perjury, and of the planning sessions for the break-in. The President was told of E. Howard Hunt's blackmail demand and allegedly told Dean to meet it.

The tapes showed Nixon ordered Dean to write a generalized report for the President, a document for public consumption. Instead Dean went to

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Students Put Graduation Ahead Of Resignation

By MARY DUMOND
Tribune Sunday Editor

Few of the more than 170 students graduating Thursday night from Western Wisconsin Technical Institute seemed concerned their graduation coincided with the nation's history in the form of President Nixon's resignation.

While several color television sets blared with after-graduation rebroadcasts of Nixon's resignation address, students stood in groups in the Roy Kumm Building talking of their own doings, leaving the viewing to the older generation. The crowd had moved to a reception after the commencement ceremony in Mary E. Sawyer Auditorium.

A sampling of student reaction showed varied opinions on the outgoing President's actions, but most students interviewed pretty much agreed with one young man from Rochester, Minn., who said of politicians:

"They're all a bunch of crooks. One graduate, Dan Ganika, 1230 Park Ave. said, 'This should have been done a long time ago. And I hope they don't let him off. They should have got those tapes when the first guy (Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox) was in charge. He (Nixon) did know. He should be prosecuted! He did break the law.'"

The country should show the world a president is like anybody else, added Ganika. "He should get the heat, too, just the same as any of the rest of us."

"I think it's fantastic," said Roxanne Betsinger of

Rockland. "No one in the country respects his decisions anymore — it's the best thing. I was in the graduating ceremonies, what did he say?"

Miss Betsinger's reply to a capsule version of the speech and the question, "Will this affect your attitude towards politics as a voter?" was:

"No, I mean, you always kind of had an idea they were crooked. Now it's out in the open. They (politicians) are going to have to be more straightforward."

"It's the best thing for the country," said Gary Husmoen of Blair. "I didn't necessarily agree with him — but

"He should get the heat too, just the same as any of the rest of us." — WWTU graduate Dan Ganika.

Nixon is taking the rap for people clear back to the early 1900s. They've been taping and pulling dirty tricks all along. I felt he was doing a tremendous job."

Chuck Blair of Mauston more or less agreed with his companion. "I just feel that while he's resigning, it's a bad mark on him, but the good things he's done override it. I think the charges being made here should continue till everything's dug up."

But he's helped the foreign policy and the economy isn't as bad as they say. I was behind him all the way." On voting? "It's just the choice of the right person."

Greg Bettin, 2330 Madison St., with the same group.

said, "I don't know what to say. I thought he would have stayed in office — he's fought this long."

Bettin takes a cautious view of voting. "I had some city representative come to the house and ask me to vote for him. I told him I didn't know anything about him. 'Your parents know me,' he said, and I told him, 'But I don't.' So I didn't vote for anybody. I won't vote for anybody I don't know anything about."

"I think it's good the whole headache's over," commented Kay Patterson of Strawberry Point, Iowa. "I'll probably be a little more careful next time," of voting.

"I don't think he should have resigned," said Barbara Swenson of Viroqua. "He should have been impeached."

Said Susan Koehl of La Crosse: "I think it's kind of crudly, because anybody who gets into office is the same way. No, it won't influence me as a voter."

"It's too bad it happened. Even though Nixon was guilty, it degraded our country. Everyone else did the same thing, they were just fortunate not to get caught," said Ray Souchek of Rochester. "It'll make me think twice before I vote for another president."

James P. Hill, chairman of the student government organization at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, had this reaction:

"Richard Nixon left the presidency expressing his ultimate goal in life — to contribute to building a peaceful world, that has been his first priority. History may show

that long-lasting peace in the world actually began with his administration.

"But I would pluck that feather from his cap immediately, because history will also show that the way in

"When it finally became Nixon's choice as to which course to take, it was the unjust course of covering up." — James Hill, chairman of UW-L student government.

which he and his men sought the ideal of a peaceful world community is the worst example of how suddenly to rearrange priorities that any president has ever been caught at."

"When it finally became Nixon's choice as to which course to take, it was the unjust course of covering up. That decision itself plunged the noble ideal into secondary priority and the cover-up emerged as first. Choosing an unjust course negates any good intention that he may have been trying to preserve."

"A simple admission that he played badminton with his priorities is all I wanted to hear Richard Nixon confess to last night, not a long list of wrongdoings that some in Congress wanted to hear. But then, he alone faces the long ride home from the 37th president of the United States — and it was his choice how to travel it."



Eyes Were Glued To TV Screens

By THOMAS RISTOW
Tribune Journalist

There was an eerie feeling in La Crosse last night — in the bars, at the waterfront on the street. It was strangely calm around 8 p.m. (graduated events went on pretty much as usual. Some soft ball games were held. But people just staring the streets were rare. It seemed that if persons had nothing else planned previously, something was keeping them in their homes, or drawing them to a television elsewhere.

At the Vogue Tavern, 1820 George St., the atmosphere was strangely calm, although the regular crowd was there. Mostly quiet conversations were going on and patrons kept asking the time and peering at the television set on the wall.

There were a few comments like: "They is the football game on at 8." and "Who cares about a moment in history? We'll be hearing about it for a million years anyhow."

At 8:05 on the minute hand moved to 8 p.m., all comments ceased and even the always-present football game ended as all eyes — some young, some middle-aged some old — were glued to the television screen.

When Richard Nixon announced his resignation at 7:56 State St. made the same observation Mrs. Miller said, "I think he should pay the price for the things he

did. Agnew got off with little or no punishment, and now Nixon will probably get off, too."

Miller, however, while saying he thought the resignation was another step toward cleaning up politics, saw procedural problems with Ford's taking office. "I don't believe he's resigned, and I don't think it is good for the country or him. He should have fought it."

Yet four persons who said they were glad Nixon had left office for the country's sake, said they thought impeachment might have been a better route or drawing them to a television elsewhere.

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The Outfits Were Gay, But Mood Was Somber

By PAT MOORE
Tribune Staff Writer

It was an incongruous situation — a group of about 25 persons, representing local organizations ranging from a square dance group to a drum corps, had gathered to begin the sale of buttons for the fall festival.

The announcement at the beginning of the meeting, that those who wished could adjourn to the television on the President came on, was greeted with comments similar to one woman's reaction: "Oh, good!"

When the president appeared on the screen there was a rush to the corner television set. A hush fell over the room.

For Farmer, the President's resignation had a special significance. He confesses that as a 12-year-old who was a sixth grader in Connecticut when Nixon first ran for president in 1960, he looked to Nixon as his boyhood idol.

As far as the Republican party is concerned, it's been a healthy thing," Farmer said. "As an American, I can't help but feel like every house ought to fly a black flag, no matter what side of the fence you're on. It's a very sad occasion. The whole thing has been sad over the last several months."

What he liked about Nixon, he said, was "Physically, he raised no emotions. His hands were always too big for his body. He couldn't walk with the grace of a Kennedy or an Eisenhower. If you supported Richard Nixon, you supported him because you believed in him. I don't know anybody who had the same emotional fervor for Nixon as they had for Kennedy."

What's a strength along those lines can also be a fault," he continued. "In politics, it's tough to get a candidate who has charisma and character. I think the character approach is more productive in national programs than charisma. But charisma makes everybody feel good."

Gerald Ford's rise to the

presidency he said, makes Ford one of those products of a unique happening — an accident of history. It's often been those men, who have been plucked by fate from relative obscurity, who have developed the characteristics of greatness.

The 25-year-old Farmer graduated from George Washington University with a bachelor of arts degree in public affairs and political science. For three years he lived in a dormitory that was only two blocks

from the Democratic party will have its turn. We've gone through a step in evolution that they haven't gone through yet. We've had our purge. The deadwood is out."

And Farmer, who says he was raised in a Republican household, is optimistic about the future of the party. "I think the party that's going to come up in the future is going to be the Republican party because of this event. Indicative of this is the fact that our candidates have been so thorough in filing all of their financial papers and reports. Gerald Ford will provide able leadership and will be a good symbol for the party."

A sad expression crossed his face. "Imagine spending your whole life attaining your career and then to have it come down in the most humiliating way possible to a man. I can't help but respect him (Nixon) for that," he said quietly.



County GOP Treasurer Makes A Point
Douglas Farmer Says Richard-Nixon Was His Idol

Spiro Agnew Has 'No Comment' On Resignation

CROFTON, Md. (AP) — Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew offered a terse "no comment" when asked about President Nixon's downfall.

Agnew, Nixon's 1968 and 1972 running mate, has avoided publicity since he resigned last October after a contest plea to evading federal income tax charges.

The former vice president, now a budding export-importer, emerged from his office Thursday dressed in slacks and a pullover knit shirt, following what his secretary told reporters was "a working day just like any other."

Carrying a briefcase and tennis racket, he glanced at the tennis sky and made his way to his car, avoiding answering newsmen seeking comment on President Nixon's resignation.

Agnew lives 20 miles from here in a new \$100,000 home.

Resignation Triggers Alert In Vietnam

SALGON, South Vietnam (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu ordered a military alert throughout South Vietnam on Friday.

His government said the move was to guard against any action by the Communist command to take advantage of President Nixon's resignation to launch a general offensive.

Thieu ordered the alert after meeting with his top advisers on Thursday, when Nixon's resignation was reported imminent, and again on Friday after the U.S. President announced his decision.

Heavy fighting continues in Vietnam 18 months after the Paris cease-fire agreement ended U.S. participation in the war.

proceedings might have made Nixon's situation more difficult and given Gerald Ford more time to prepare to take over.

But among most persons, there was a feeling of hope — no sense a glimmer in someone's head and who will work about our country more and other countries less — and Ford will do that, a man sitting on a bench near the Black River Boathouse on the North Side said.

Asked his name, he pointed to a companion and said: "We're just Smith and Jones, our opinions don't really matter."

Earl Zarnich, 1066 Green St. Omaha, said he, too, thought Ford would "have the people behind him," but added: "Anybody new probably wouldn't."

Even a died-in-the-wool Democrat, Frank Haken of Quail's IGA Foodliner, 325 West Ave. N., where he was interviewed, took a different tack. "This resignation just leaves the whole thing hanging," he said, adding that impeachment

proceedings might have made Nixon's situation more difficult and given Gerald Ford more time to prepare to take over.

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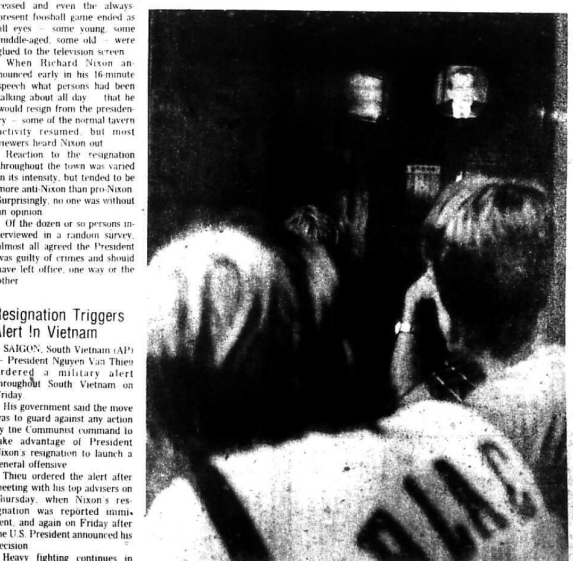
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All Eyes Were On Nixon As He Gave Resignation Talk
Scene At Vogue Tavern, 1820 George St., Was Typical In La Crosse