

## Nixon failed to cope with web of scandals

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon says his attempts to cope with the Watergate scandals led him "deeper and deeper into a tangled web of suspicion and confusion" which led to his eventual resignation.

In a foreword to the volume of his public papers for 1974, Nixon says that all the events of the year were played against an ever-darkening background of Watergate.

"Effective leadership is a prerequisite for a great people and a great nation,

and by August it was clear that whatever its eventual outcome, a protracted trial of the President in the Senate would deprive America of the leadership it needed.

"It was also clear," Nixon continues, "that my own political base in Congress has become too weak to accomplish the important things that needed to be done by America and in the world during the remaining two years of my administration.

"Therefore, on Aug. 9, in the second year of my second term, I resigned as president of the United States."

The final two volumes of Nixon's public papers have been published by the National Archives; he has contributed new forewords to both.

In the earlier book, Nixon says that 1973 "was also the year in which Watergate became the major focus of the nation's attention," and he adds:

"The episode widened and broadened so quickly that each attempt on my part to deal with it led me and my administration deeper and deeper into a tangled web of suspicion and confusion."

Aside from Watergate, Nixon writes with pride of his administration's accomplishments in foreign affairs and on handling domestic problems, citing the end of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, the oil embargoes, the Yom Kippur war and other events.

During the years 1969-74, he writes, "we made real progress — sometimes slow but always sure — towards achieving the goals" he set for his administration at the start.

There is only a terse and noncommittal reference to one of the major domestic events of 1973 — the resignation under fire of Spiro T. Agnew.

"In October," Nixon records, "Vice President Agnew resigned his office, and I appointed Congressman Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed him." President Ford subsequently granted Nixon a full pardon for any crimes he may have committed in the Watergate affair.

As he has on other occasions, Nixon admitted errors of judgment but did not acknowledge any culpability.