

Americans React Soberly,

Some Bitterly to Resignation

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The country reacted soberly yesterday to President Nixon's resignation. Americans expressed relief that the trauma of Watergate has ended, hope that the nation's economic problems can now be solved and faith in Gerald Ford.

There was little joy, even from Mr. Nixon's old political adversaries. But some of his most ardent supporters expressed bitterness and insisted that the President was driven out of office by Democrats and a hostile press.

Pennsylvania's Democratic Gov. Milton J. Shapp, an amateur poet, voiced his feelings in a short verse that appeared to capture the mood of many Americans who talked with Washington Post correspondents across the country:

"In the aftermath,

"No wrath.

"Just sorrow

"And hope for tomorrow."

In Lansing, Mich., Vice President Ford's half brother Thomas G. Ford asked Americans "to give Jerry your prayers and support at this time."

But some of President Nixon's supporters said they were disillusioned by the revelation Monday that he had helped in the Watergate cover-up.

"Emotionally I have the same feeling as if someone in my own family committed a crime and lied to me," said Dwight Dobbs, who rented three billboards in Urbana, Ill., last September to support Mr. Nixon during the Watergate investigation.

On Nixon Street in Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Glatt, Republicans who described themselves as former supporters of President Nixon, said they are very disappointed in the man and here we have a street with his name on it."

One of the strongest anti-Nixon statements of the day came from Rudy Boschwitz, the Republican national committeeman from Minnesota, who said:

"I'm really tempted to say

struck today for higher wages despite a government warning that they would be punished for breaking a price and wage freeze.

Other leftist unions in Cordoba, a traditional center of labor activism 400 miles northwest of Buenos Aires, joined in a sympathy strike with the auto workers.

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reckless mischief—I will have to wait to make a less emotional assessment of the Nixon administration.

"Now the government can begin functioning without the cloud of Watergate. I have complete confidence in the ability of Gerald Ford to lead this nation, and he has my support and prayers."

One of the most vocal supporters of Mr. Nixon in recent weeks, Rabbi Baruch Korff, head of the Citizen's Committee for Fairness to the Presidency, was equally forceful in his support of the President. He said Mr. Nixon "for 30 years sacrifice everything for America's good (and) now has made the supreme sacrifice."

Rabbi Korff called Mr. Nixon "the greatest peacemaker of this century" and said "he will be esteemed by future generations." Mr. Korff added that his organization will continue to fight "future assaults against our constitutional form of government."

"We have seen what can happen to a president when the citizenry's access to information is controlled by unchecked media giants and manipulated by vested interest groups."

Mr. Nixon's neighbors at Key Biscayne, Fla., also expressed anger at the President's resignation.

"The whole thing is stupid," said Charles McLain, who lives down Harbour Drive from the Nixon compound. "I don't think it's anything a other President hasn't done before. We're only hurting ourselves."

Another neighbor, Stella Marmeliuk, called Mr. Nixon's resignation "a shame. This is a disgrace. How many presidents made the same mistake and didn't get caught?" she asked.

Harry Dent, the Republican state chairman for South Carolina and a former White House aide saw "a tidal wave of sympathy for Mr. Nixon." He added that he hoped the President's detractors "can stand the same scrutiny."

"The Democrats who have run Nixon out of office have run Ford in and they will pay dearly for it. It will cost them the White House," added Dent, a prime exponent of Mr. Nixon's 1968 "Southern strategy."

Mr. Nixon asked one of his staunchest congressional supporters, Rep. Earl Landgrebe (R-Ind.), to the White House last night to hear his resignation speech.

Landgrebe, who said Tuesday that he would continue to support Mr. Nixon until

he was dragged out of the Capitol, added yesterday that he bases his continued support of Mr. Nixon on "blind faith . . . and thankfulness for what this man has done for the country."

Another Nixon supporter, Indianapolis Mayor Richard G. Lugar, said that history will remember the President for "the mountaintops of his achievements which changed the course of history for the better."

"President Nixon brought peace to this country and the world. He fostered a pattern of negotiations which replaced the excess of confrontation and crisis at home and abroad."

Former White House communications director, Herbert Klein, a long-time associate of Mr. Nixon, said that he felt "a great deal of sorrow. I think he has accomplished a great deal and this will bring his ability to govern at an end."

Klein, however, said that the Watergate scandal would not mar Mr. Nixon's place in history. "I think history will look at them (the administration and Watergate) as two separate things. There was the Watergate, but you can't ignore his great accomplishments in foreign policy."

In the presidential tapes released Monday, Mr. Nixon had told former White House Chief of Staff H. R. Haldeman that Klein had "egg on his face" and that "his head is not screwed on."

Klein denied that he feels hurt by the tapes. He reported that Mr. Nixon directed several people in the White House to tell him that the remarks were "passing comments he regretted."

"I believe that," Klein said. "I even joked about it in a speech today. I said I arrived with my head screwed on."

Lyn Nofziger, another former Nixon political aide, responded to the President's resignation with "relief" yesterday. Now a GOP campaign coordinator in California, Nofziger said, "Watergate will no longer be a burden on the shoulders of the Republican Party. A major issue has been removed from the campaign and Republicans will no longer have to be on the defensive."

In Virginia, Ronald F. Docksai, national chairman of the conservative Young Americans for Freedom, said the President's resignation came "too late to impress conservatives with his

integrity or moral firmness, but we feel his action in resigning is as necessary as it is tragic for him and our country."

The YAF at one time had supported the President.

Gordon Luce of California, one of the first Republican state chairmen to call for the President's resignation, said he also reacted with "relief" yesterday.

"It's pretty clear that Gerald Ford as President will make a positive contribution," Luce said. "There will be a Republican President in the White House, and the cloud of Watergate will not hang over it."

Also in California yesterday, the chairman of the Republican Central Committee in Orange County, where Mr. Nixon votes, said resignation was "for the good of the country and the good of the Republican Party."

The chairman, George Delahanty, said, "It's quite obvious Mr. Nixon is guilty of an obstruction of justice. There is hard evidence to show it, and . . . when some of the other presidential tapes are made public, we will find more evidence of reprehensible action."

The chairman of the Pennsylvania Republican Party, Richard Frame, said his support of "the philosophy which Mr. Nixon ably espoused" was unshaken, although he was "happy that the nation and the Nixon family (will be) spared the agonies that an impeachment trial would have brought."

"For the good of the country," Frame added, "I hope the time comes soon when the positive achievements of this administration will overshadow this most unfortunate sequence of misjudgments, misstatements, mistakes and tragedy."

Frame's Oklahoma colleague, state chairman Clarence Warner said, "The President has taken this most difficult action of his life with an unselfish consideration of what he perceives to be the best for this great country. No one can ever take away the great accomplishments of this administration."

Most Democrats were restrained in their comments. Ramsey Clark, the former U.S. Attorney General under President Johnson and a candidate for the Senate from New York, called this "a sad moment in the history of a great nation."

"It is a time that we must insist upon a new commitment to integrity and consti-

tutional government and law. We must look to the future for a regeneration of moral purpose."

In Minnesota, Democratic Gov. Wendell Anderson said, "I am thankful, as I am sure all Americans are thankful, that this long and painful ordeal is now largely behind us . . . It is my hope and expectation that we can now turn our attention to the pressing problems confronting this nation."

New York Mayor Abraham Beame echoed that thought. He said he hopes that Mr. Nixon's resignation "brings with it an end to many months of paralysis which have prevented significant federal action on a list of critical national problems."

Terry Sanford, president of Duke University and former governor of North Carolina, said, "It's good that two years of turmoil, indecision and doubt are behind us. It's time to gird up our loins and get going again, to stop this crazy inflation, to move with the business of the people."

Several Democrats, including New York gubernatorial candidate Howard Samuels, opposed granting immunity to President Nixon for any criminal acts he may have committed.

"The Nixon administration was elected to office in 1968 on a platform of law and order. Although Nixon's

political exploitations of the issue was abhorrent, his rock bottom principle was correct: we must be a nation of laws."

An organization of about 50 antiwar and peace groups, the National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty, urged that any immunity for Mr. Nixon be linked to amnesty for Vietnam draft evaders and Army deserters. President Nixon has always strongly opposed giving amnesty to men who refused to fight in Vietnam.

Georgia State Rep. Julian Bond also said there should not be amnesty for President Nixon.

"Why should he be granted anything that he wouldn't grant somebody else, like the boys in Canada. The prisons of Georgia are full of people who stole \$5 or \$10 and this man tried to steal the Constitution of the United States."

Another black leader, the Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, said, "I think he is resigning in an effort to avoid the truth getting out and to avoid prosecution."

Helen Gahagan Douglas, whose political career was cut short by Mr. Nixon in 1950 in one of the bitterest campaigns in California history, said she would have liked the impeachment process to have continued to the end—not because it would humiliate the President but because of its lessons for history.



—United Press International

NO COMMENT—Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, shown leaving his Crofton, Ma., office yesterday, declines comment on the Nixon resignation speculation.