

# FORD PLANS A PLEA FOR NATION'S UNITY IN SPEECH TONIGHT

Aides Say He'll Emphasize  
Government Stability and  
Call for Cooperation

## G. O. P. LEADERS VISIT

President and Family Attend  
Church—He Drafts List  
of 15 for Vice President

8/12/74  
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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11—For his first time as President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford went to church today, and then spent the rest of his Sabbath discussing a new Vice President and working on the speech he is to make tomorrow night to Congress.

By the end of his third day in office, moreover, he had also signed his first two bills into law—an authorization of new safety standards for Coast Guard ships and a provision for penalties for violations of an agricultural commodity act.

Mr. Ford's aides said that the new President would make an appeal for national unity tomorrow in his 9 P.M. speech, which will be televised. They said he would also emphasize the stability of the Government, promise White House cooperation with Congress and make a plea for mutual cooperation from the legislators.

### List of Names Compiled

The speech is also expected to deal with the economy and the new Administration's perspective on inflation and how to combat it. Most observers believe Mr. Ford's approach will differ little from former President Richard M. Nixon's reliance on reductions in Government spending and his continuing of high rates of interest.

Meanwhile, a participant in

one meeting with the new President said that Mr. Ford had compiled a list of about 15 candidates to replace him as Vice President and that it included most of the names that had already figured in speculation about his choice.

But the impression left with some of those who spoke to him was that he was still looking for suggestions not only about who should get the job, but also about what type of person he needed for the post. [Page 14.]

### Meets Party Leaders

"It was a busy and productive afternoon," the President's press secretary, J. F. terHorst, said after the series of meetings with Republican Congressional leaders, as well as discussions with Secretary of State Kissinger; George Bush, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Melvin R. Laird and Bryce N. Harlow, both former Presidential advisers.

The bulk of his time, however, was devoted to individual discussions with Senators Hugh Scott, Robert P. Griffin, Barry Goldwater and John G. Tower and Representatives John J. Rhodes, Leslie C. Arends, Elford A. Cederberg and Barber B. Conable Jr.—the Republican hierarchy in Congress and old friends of the President from

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his long career on Capitol Hill. Afterward, Mr. Conable made the disclosure that President Ford had compiled a list of approximately 15 candidates for the Vice-Presidential nomination.

Among those on the President's list, he said, were Elliot L. Richardson, the former Attorney General, Senator Edward W. Brooke, the Massachusetts Republican, and Mr. Laird.

Although Representative Conable's description of his meeting with Mr. Ford seemed to suggest that the Vice-Presidential question was the primary topic, Mr. terHorst said that the main reason for the individual sessions was to discuss "general transitional problems."

### Other Contrasts

That transition seemed to be moving smoothly today as Mr. Ford and his staff began adjusting to their new responsibilities and surroundings. While his aides' unfamiliarity with long established rhythms and rituals at the White House produced some moments of awkwardness on Friday and yesterday, the aides appeared much more at ease today with reporters and the long parade of visitors.

"We're getting the kinks out, I think," said one aide. "Not that there won't be some problems along the line, of course, but we're going to be candid and open. You can count on that."

There were other contrasts with the Nixon White House today, including the new President's individual, private meetings with the Congressional leaders. Mr. Nixon seldom met alone with Senators or Representatives, preferring instead to dine with groups of them at breakfast or lunch.

Representative Conable, of upstate New York, said the President had asked for the private discussions because he felt that in group meetings, some of his visitors might be

influenced by one another's presence.

The disclosure of the substance of what the President will say in his speech to Congress tomorrow night was another example of the differences noted by those who had closely watched the previous White House staff in operation.

Like President Johnson, Mr. Nixon preferred that the details of speeches be kept secret until their delivery—but Mr. Ford's aides seemed eager to discuss what he planned to say in his address to Congress.

The President, his wife, and their 17-year old daughter, Susan, began the day by attending services at Immanuel Church on the Hill, an Episcopal church not far from the Ford Home in Alexandria, Va.

The news of his expected presence in the back pew, where he has worshiped for several years, brought an overflow crowd to the little church on the campus of the Virginia Theological Seminary.

More than 500 persons had crowded into the 100-year-old brick and wood structure by the time the Fords arrived for the one-hour service of morning prayer.

Included in the service was a prayer for the President, written by the Right Rev. John A. Baden, Suffragan Bishop of Virginia, and read by the Rev. Patricia M. Park, an assistant to the church's rector, the Rev.

William L. Dols Jr.

"Heavenly Father," the prayer began, "we hold before you this day, Gerald, a child of yours, a member of this parish family, who has been called to be President of the United States.

"Give him the strength of spirit, body and mind needed for the task—the wisdom to see, listen and act for the good of all people."

Then, Mrs. Park, a 27-year-old deacon, wife of an Episcopal priest and the mother of a six-month old daughter, intoned a prayer "for Richard and Patricia Nixon . . . cast down and faint of heart amidst the sorrows and difficulties of the world."

The rector's sermon seemed to reiterate the theme of the new President's inaugural remarks last Friday. It called for a binding up of wounds and a mending of broken pieces.

Mr. Dols, a 41-year-old graduate of the seminary where the church is situated, returned from a Cape Cod vacation last night to preach in the service today after it was learned that President Ford would attend.

Mrs. Park, who has been active in an effort to allow women to become priests in the Episcopal Church, was to have been the preacher in today's service.

"But I thought I should preach since it was such a special day for the parish," Mr. Dols explained afterward.