

Openness and Honesty Again Pledged by Ford

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President Ford said yesterday that he intends to put his own imprint on the government and that while he can promise no utopia he will preside over "an open, honest government."

The President spoke to more than 300 appointed officials at a meeting in the White House to urge them to talk more freely to the American people and to Congress.

Reporting on the closed meetings, White House press secretary Jerald F. TerHorst said that the presidency "is in different hands" and that there will be a "difference in emphasis and in tools."

The President is not impressed with "the layerization of staff and the overlapping of bureaus," TerHorst said. "He likes a straightforward line of command."

The brief speech and handshake with each of those present came at the end of a day in which the President continued his crowded schedule of meetings with official and unofficial advisers and announced that he would confer today and Thursday with groups representing state and local officials.

He also sent his first veto message to Congress and said that he would make his first presidential trip Monday when he is to fly to Chicago to address the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The veto message was of a minor bill requiring upgrading of deputy U.S. marshals, and is not expected to cast a shadow over the President's blossoming relations with Congress.

Former President Nixon vetoed a similar measure nearly two years ago. Declaring that the legislation would be "unwise and discriminatory," Mr. Ford said it would run counter to the principle of "equal pay for equal work."

Politically, the President's most important meeting was with George Meany, the powerful AFL-CIO president who clashed violently with Mr. Ford's predecessor and now can play a key role in the new administration's anti-inflation campaign.

Later, the President held his first meeting with members of

the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger also attended the meeting.

It was described as a get-acquainted meeting to discuss their mutual responsibilities. He also met with Attorney General William B. Saxbe and a group led by Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan and including Virginia Gov. Mills E. Godwin, on methods to promote training of workers.

In his first diplomatic nominations, the President named Jack B. Kubisch, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, to be ambassador to Greece, and Richard L. Sneider, deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs, to be ambassador to Korea.

If confirmed by the Senate, Kubisch will succeed Henry J. Tasca, criticized as being uncritical of the ousted Greek junta and ineffective in efforts to prevent the Greek part in the overthrow of the Makarios government on Cyprus.

Sneider is slated to succeed Phillip C. Habib in Seoul. Habib is assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

Both nominations were in the works before the new President took office last Friday.

TerHorst announced that Mr. Ford would review all nominations made by the former President that are now pending before the Senate.

Describing the move as the "traditional" right of a new President, TerHorst said Mr. Ford would review the list quickly so that any changes be made promptly. Most of the 40-odd nominations pending are for judgeships, ambassadorships and sub-Cabinet appointments. One is of Earl Silbert to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

TerHorst said the President approved the Nixon nomination of Alan Greenspan to be chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Responding to reports that Mr. Ford may be considering an early visit to Europe to confer with NATO allies, TerHorst said nothing is planned.

Other sources said that the President has no plans for for-

eign travel at least until after the November elections. These sources said that the President is more likely to visit Japan first, taking up an invitation President Nixon had accepted from the Japanese government.

When a reporter asked if Mr. Ford might continue the former President's practice of holding church services in the White House, TerHorst replied in the negative. He said that the Fords had for many years attended services at Immanuel Episcopal Church-on-the-Hill in Alexandria.

Every President "has his own style" in regard to matters of faith, and the Fords' "first preference" will probably be to continue to attend the Alexandria church, TerHorst said.

The press secretary dismissed speculation that Mr. Ford obliquely indicated in his address to Congress Monday that he would seek a full term in 1976. TerHorst said Mr. Ford had made no decision on the matter.

The President is scheduled to meet today with the executive committee of the National Governors Conference and later with representatives of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and League of Cities.

On Thursday he is to meet with representatives of the National Association of Counties.

Fortune Cookie Told Ford Future

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Aug. 13 (UPI)—President Ford may not believe in fortune cookies, but his wife and children do.

The family was in Vail, Colo., several months ago at a Chinese restaurant. Mr. Ford wasn't impressed but his wife, now the new First Lady, and the children wanted to see what his fortune cookie said.

Mrs. Ford told a television reporter in a phone interview this week that the fortune cookie read: "You are about to have a change in address."