

# Senate Approves Ford, 92-3, for Vice President

## House to Vote On Nominee Before Dec. 6

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By Spencer Rich

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The nomination of Gerald R. Ford to be the 40th Vice President of the United States won Senate approval on a 92-to-3 roll-call vote yesterday.

Both chambers must endorse Ford before he can succeed to the office vacated by Spiro T. Agnew, who resigned six weeks ago after being fined \$10,000 for tax evasion.

The House Judiciary Committee plans to vote on Ford Thursday, and the full House by Dec. 6. Approval by the House, of which Ford has been a member for 25 years and the GOP floor leader for the past eight, is likely to be by just as wide a margin as the Senate's.

Yesterday's unique vote took place before a packed Senate gallery, with Ford's wife, Elizabeth, watching from the visitors' section.

The three senators who voted against Ford are Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.), William Hathaway (D-Maine) and Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Mo.).

Nelson said Ford wouldn't provide "the kind of inspirational leadership this nation will need should he succeed



By Arthur Ellis—The Washington Post

Vice President-designate Ford addresses seafarers union.

to the presidency." He also called Ford weak on civil rights and criticized him for supporting the Vietnam war.

Hathaway favors holding up Ford's nomination until it is determined whether President Nixon is ousted, and then calling a special election to choose a new President.

Eagleton said he felt Ford couldn't provide "imaginative, creative, inspirational leadership" if he became President.

Five senators were absent: Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.), George McGovern (D-S.D.), Paul J. Fannin (R-Ariz.) and James A. McClure (R-Idaho).

While the roll was called, Ford waited in the office of Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) just off the chamber, and he received senator's

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congratulations there after the vote.

The Senate vote was historic. The Michigan congressman is the first man to be selected as Vice President in this fashion. The 25th Amendment, which became effective in 1967, provides for the President to nominate a new Vice President if the office becomes vacant, and for confirmation by majority vote of both houses of Congress.

President Nixon nominated Ford on Oct. 12.

The Senate Rules Committee, after a series of hearings on Ford and a closed hearing with ex-lobbyist Robert N. Winter-Berger, author of the controversial book, "Washington Pay-Off," concluded that corruption charges against Ford were baseless and that Ford "fully met reasonable tests" of "character and personal and financial integrity." It approved Ford 9 to 0 on Nov. 20.

When Ford was first nominated, House colleagues called him a hard-working, decent man of basic integrity, pleasant manners, and soft-spoken mien. Ford conveyed just that image during the Senate Rules and House Judiciary Committee hearings. At the same time, he gave the impression of one who believes in the role

of Congress in American government and wouldn't seek to stifle it if he became President.

During his House career Ford has been a Republican loyalist. He characterized himself during the hearings as a conservative in fiscal policy, a moderate in domestic policy and an internationalist in foreign policy.

His voting record bears this out. Generally he has voted to cut government spending and restrict Great Society and New Frontier social programs.

Ford, 60, also said repeatedly at the hearings that he hasn't any intention of running for President in 1976. This was happy news for Democrats, who didn't like the idea of a Republican, elevated to Vice President through the misdeeds of another Republican, using the office as a political base to seek the presidency in 1976.