

# Ford Press Aide Quits In Protest

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jerald F. terHorst, President Ford's close friend and adviser, resigned Sunday in protest over Ford's granting of an unconditional pardon to former President Richard M. Nixon.

TerHorst was understood to have told Ford that it was a matter of "principle" for him, though he also said he could understand Ford's decision also was a matter of principle, the sources said.

TerHorst could not be reached for comment, but his decision was confirmed by a close friend.

TerHorst joined the Ford administration after serving as Washington bureau chief of the Detroit News. When he took the job of press secretary, he was working on a biography of the new President.

Sources reported that John W. Hushen, hired by terHorst two weeks ago as deputy press secretary, would assume terHorst's post on an acting basis. Hushen could not be reached for comment either.

Hushen, also a former Detroit newsman, had served as chief public information officer at the Justice Department during much of the Nixon administration.

Telephone calls to the White House press office went unanswered Sunday night, but the sources confirmed the report first disclosed by Newsweek Magazine in editions due on the newstands Monday.

"The President acted in good conscience and I also found it necessary to resign in good conscience," terHorst said in a statement given to a reporter by his wife from their Alexandria, Va. home.

The unexpected resignation came within hours after Ford's surprise announcement that he had decided to grant a full par-

don to the man he succeeded in the nation's highest office one day short of one month ago.

TerHorst was the first man Ford hired for his White House staff after Nixon quit, and the press secretary's resignation clearly was a jolt to Ford's young administration.

Another White House official said he did not expect other Ford aides to join terHorst in resigning. But most of Ford's close advisers could not be reached for comment Sunday night.

TerHorst himself refused to talk with newsmen as word of his resignation swept through a capital still stunned by the suddenness of Ford's pardon announcement.