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By El. BUA

A Little Talk With His Friends

By Clifford Daniel
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Mr. Ford was not an inaugural address by any means, but it was not a State of the Union message.

It was a more personal and intimate affair than any other inauguration talk since the late 19th century. It was a talk about the man who was now President. It was a talk about the man who was now President.

A News Analysis

The friends to whom he addressed his remarks yesterday evening were friends in deed. They were the assembled members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, a body in which Mr. Ford served for 25 years and where he claims not to have a "single enemy."

They interrupted him with applause 32 times, and they probably would have cheered if he had read them a page from the telephone book. They were that anx-

ious to show their approval of him and their hopes for his administration.

The speech, however, was not all that much of a departure from the policies and plans of his discredited predecessor.

When Mr. Ford started listing the legislation he wanted, he sounded very much like Richard M. Nixon in his State of the Union address last January 30.

They both talked about inflation, energy, health care, education and, surprisingly enough, "protecting the rights of personal privacy for every American" — to use Mr. Nixon's words.

Mr. Ford elicited an extra cheer and a half when he added, "There will be no illegal tapings, eavesdroppings, buggings or break-ins in my administration."

The word "my" was underlined both in his text and in his delivery.

Among those who heard these words, which implied a rebuke to Mr. Nixon, were Mr. Nixon's daughter, Julie,

and her husband, David Eisenhower. They were in the audience.

No doubt the legislative priorities presented by Mr. Nixon and Mr. Ford were similar because the nation's problems remain the same, and the government has not dealt vigorously with them.

Most of the program Mr. Nixon outlined in January is still languishing in Congress. There was a similarity not only in the programs outlined but also in the vagueness of the remedies proposed for the nation's No. 1 problem, inflation.

Mr. Ford was no more concrete at night than Mr. Nixon was three weeks ago when, in his last public appearance before resigning from office, he delivered a televised address on the economy from Los Angeles.

Mr. Ford proposed to balance the federal budget, cut government spending, reactivate the Cost of Living Council to monitor wages and prices and convene an economic summit meeting with the President himself

and her husband, David Eisenhower. They were in the audience.



AP Wirephoto
PRESIDENT WAS SURROUNDED ON HOUSE FLOOR
He shook hands with many of his former colleagues

presiding. It was exactly a spine-tingling set of proposals.

Still, for all its lack of novelty and substance, Mr. Ford's first appearance before a joint session of Congress was obviously heart-warming, both for the audi-

ence and for the speaker.

All down the aisle, entering and leaving the House chamber, the President paused to shake hands. He and House Speaker Carl Albert swapped congressional jokes. Old friends could be heard calling the new President "Jerry."

Although Mr. Ford could

never earn a living as a standup comedian, he managed to get five audible laughs out of his speech. . . . The first one was when he said, "I don't want a honeymoon with you. I want a good marriage."

And the speech may be remembered as much for that line as any.