

From article on Ford's first year in office, "The Happy Traveler" by William V. Shannon:

A year ago, Richard Nixon made one more maudlin, embarrassing assault on the patience and sensibility of the American people and then flew into exile in California. The old gamester left Gerald Ford behind to fill out the remaining two and one-half years of his term.

Of course, Mr. Nixon tried to do worse and very nearly succeeded. Spiro Agnew, if he had not been unmasked, would have succeeded him. With Agnew gone, Mr. Nixon wanted to foist off John Connally on the public but fortunately, his courage failed. He settled for his faithful agent in the House, Mr. Ford.

From Mr. Ford's selfish viewpoint, he had done very well this past year. He has stressed the simple theme that he is not, repeat not, Richard Nixon. This is an accomplishment well within the powers of any reasonably normal man. But the public, having had a nightmare brush with the political version of Count Dracula, is still shaking with relief to find itself back in the sunlit world of morning. Who can blame Mr. Ford if he tries to benefit from the glare of normality?

.....