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Anniversary of Nixon resignation:

Anthony Lewis, looking back to the day a year ago when "we were exhausted, relieved, amazed to be free at last of Richard Nixon," finds that not much has survived of "the two main themes in the emotions of that moment - pride in American institutions, hope for a revival of the American spirit."

"What was worrying about Richard Nixon was not the existence of such a person. It was the fact that we elected him President, knowing what he was. The fault was in ourselves.... That is what was so shattering about the Nixon years: the discovery that we, too, were flawed. The sins cannot all be laid on the head of that dark figure in San Clemente, nauseated though we may be to read of him wearing clothes with a Presidential seal, telephoning Mr. Ford and planning triumphal trips abroad."

NYT 7 Aug 75, Anthony Lewis

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...."

"From Mr. Ford's selfish viewpoint, he [has] 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?"

NYT 8 Aug 75, William V. Shannon

Patrick J. Buchanan: "It was anticipated that the anniversary celebration would be an unctuous affair.... Yet, looking back at Year One of our deliverance, 8 August 1974 looms as less a victory for morality in government than a triumph by one set of politicians over another. And the

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conspicuous bond among the victorious seems less 'love of country' than hatred of Richard Milhous Nixon....

"When the trap door dropped beneath him, it was not truth, justice and morality visible at the foot of Mr. Nixon's scaffold, but - heads bowed as in prayer - malice, vindictiveness and hypocrisy."

NYT 8 Aug 75, Patrick J. Buchanan

Mary McGrory: "[Nixon] no longer occupies center-stage in the consciousness of the nation, but he is still prowling around backstage.... Muffled, murky anniversary reports issue from San Clemente. They indicate that the exile has not grown out of office. He still blames the press and his political rivals for his downfall. Error is acknowledged - mostly on the part of other people; wrongdoing is not."

SFC 11 Aug 75, Mary McGrory

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"The White House Transcripts" - A 90-minute dramatization of excerpts from the WH transcripts, "including the significantly different versions presented by the House Committee of the Judiciary of the June 23, 1972, conversation," is presented on public broadcasting station KQED, San Francisco. The program was produced in Boston last summer and was originally shown on Canadian television five days before Nixon resigned.

KQED program note says, accurately, that "the producers clearly took pains to assure that events are portrayed with objectivity, without editorialization." Review of the program, shown in New York last night, says that "the producers have left out Mr. Nixon's more unkind characterizations of friends and ethnic groups, have confined his expletives to only two fairly raunchy exceptions and have refrained from the obvious temptation to display the American flag lapel pin and other such Nixonian devices.... This is still a powerful and disquieting remembrance of those surreal Watergate times."

KQED program listing, 9 Aug 75

WXP 8 Aug 75, John Carmody

Nixon (television intv) - Nixon signs contract this evening with David Frost for exclusive rights to "television memoirs." NYT notes contract is signed "exactly one year after Mr. Nixon resigned the Presidency." See entry 10 Aug 75, same heading.

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