

News Summary and Index

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1974

The Major Events of the Day

The Presidency

President Nixon in an address to the nation said that he would resign the Presidency at noon today. At that hour, Gerald R. Ford, whom Mr. Nixon nominated for Vice President last October, will be sworn to serve out the remainder of Mr. Nixon's term. Mr. Nixon said he had felt it was his duty to persevere but "in the last few days it was evident that I no longer had a strong political base in Congress to continue with the effort." He said that to have resigned several months ago would have been unfaithful to the political process, but with the disappearance of his political base "I now believe the constitutional purpose has been served." [1:7-8.]

The young women who work in the White House press office wept, and Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, choked on his words and struggled visibly to keep himself under control when he announced to reporters that the President would address the nation. President Nixon was said to be "unbelievably serene" as he went through a busy day. He conferred with the Vice President and the bipartisan leadership of Congress, appointed Federal judges, accepted resignations from Federal agencies and signed several laws. [1:7-8.]

Mr. Ford's swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to be held in the East Room of the White House. He will become the nation's 38th President and the first to serve without being voted in. It will be a small, private ceremony attended only by close friends and it is expected he will address the nation to-night on radio and television. [1:1-2.]

The question of who will be Mr. Ford's choice as Vice President was a much-discussed mystery in Washington. One Senator said, "So far I'd say he's a loner on this issue." Close friends of Mr. Ford continue to feed speculation about more than a dozen possible candidates. Several men put out word of their availability. [1:1.]

President Nixon's decision to resign drastically altered the political landscape of America. It seemed to presage an era of more open government, of more cooperation and less antagonism between Capitol Hill and the White House, and the decline of the White House staff as an independent power center. It also improved Republican

prospects in the Congressional elections in November, and put Mr. Ford in the favorite spot in the 1976 Presidential election. [1:6.]

When Vice President Ford becomes President he is expected to keep Henry A. Kissinger as Secretary of State. This is said to be a matter of prime importance to Mr. Ford, who is expected to ask other Cabinet members to stay, for at least the early months of the new Administration. [1:3.]

In 1968 and 1972, Suffolk County gave Richard M. Nixon the largest single election plurality of any county in the United States. All that was changed in Shelter Island, a conservative community 100 miles east of New York City. One resident, Evans K. Griffing, sadly stripped off his bold red-lettered bumper sticker proclaiming "NIX-ON"—six years after he had put it on the car. Mr. Griffing felt a sense of loss, as did hundreds of other islanders. [1:4-5.]

International

Despite the continued fighting in Cyprus, the Foreign Ministers of Greece, Turkey and Britain, the guarantors of the independence of Cyprus, resumed talks in Geneva to try to establish an effective cease-fire and also to tackle the political problems underlying the fighting. [6:1-2.]

Glafkos Clerides, the acting President of Cyprus, announced a new Cabinet containing no militant advocates of the union of Cyprus with Greece. The Cabinet eliminates all the ministers named by Nikos Giorgiades Sampson, an advocate of union with Greece, who briefly held the Presidency with the support of Greek officers, after the coup against the Government of President Makarios. The men appointed by Mr. Clerides are said to be without political experience, for the most part, but have strong business connections. [16:3-8.]

Metropolitan

Ten New York City police sergeants, members of a "sergeant's club" in the 103d Precinct in Jamaica, Queens, were arrested for allegedly taking \$250,000 in extortion payments and bribes from legitimate businesses and racketeers operators in Queens over a 10-year period. They were indicted by a special grand jury empaneled by the state's special prosecutor, Maurice H. Nadifari, and all were immediately suspended from police duty. [68:1-2.]

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"Therefore I shall resign the Presidency effective at noon tomorrow."—Richard M. Nixon. [1:8.]

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CORRECTION

In the obituary of Emma Fortoyce Machae, a painter, which appeared yesterday in The New York Times, she was erroneously identified as Mrs. Homer Smith. She was the widow of Dr. Homer F. Swift.