

Crowd 'Awaits History'

By Adam Shaw

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Patiently, as thought were waiting to tour the empty rooms, a crowd gathered outside the White House yesterday afternoon and evening, waiting.

There was little joy in the faces, rather a fascination with being near history in the making. Beneath the multitude of accents, style of shoes and social conditions, the vast majority of Americans outside the White House in the waning hours of Aug. 7, 1974, said Richard M. Nixon should and probably would resign.

At 3 p.m. a crowd of about 200 lined the black iron fence running along 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Among its members were Donald McDowell, of New Carlisle,

Ohio, his wife and two children.

"Nixon is flesh and bone like the rest of us and he can get fired from his job, and should be, like the rest of us on this sidewalk when he no longer does it properly. That time has come," said McDowell. "He shouldn't have gotten in, and now it's time to pay up for that mistake."

Donald W. McKee, a hog farmer from Fairbanks, Alaska, had just toured the White House with a group of Agriculture Department officials. "Quite an experience," the farmer said, "just going through the empty rooms today."

Jackson Cloyce, 44, was taking pictures of 32 boys from the Tampa Boys Club he had brought to Washington for a tour. Cloyce didn't

look happy. "I was a defender of Nixon's," he said, "I feel awfully let down, damn. I voted for him."

Others in the crowd stood at the entrance to the driveway separating the White House from the old Executive Office Building, and occasionally would catch a glimpse of Ron Zeigler crossing from one to the other. A young man who said his name was "the biblical Hezekiah" passed out the lyrics of a song called "Bye, Bye, Miss American Pie," and later, when Dan Rather did his stand-up broadcast for the evening news the crowd came alive after a hot afternoon.

When Secretary of State Henry Kissinger drove out **he** triggered excitement, "like waiting for a movie star," said one girl in the

at White House

throng that crowded his limousine.

A little later, when darkness fell, the crowd thinned. There was one man who said he was sad Nixon might resign. His name was Alex Szabo and he said he was a Hungarian Freedom Fighter in 1956. He remembered then-Vice President Nixon making a speech at the Austro-Hungarian border.

"This man did much good for the country," Szabo, now an electrician in Jersey City, said.

When Alexander M. Haig Jr. drove out of the northwest gate at 8:30 p.m. the crowd pressed to see him.

John Greenwald, 31, an amateur photographer from Washington explained why he was there.

"I came down to feel per-

sonally part of history, to have witnessed an event I'll always know I was physically part of," he said. "I saw Haig's face; he wasn't smiling."

By 9 p.m. there was almost no one to see the lights play in the White House fountain. The television anchormen were long gone, the President had not resigned, the vigil was over.

Until today.