

# Kansans See News As Inevitable

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HUTCHINSON, Kan., Aug 8 —Sandwiched between commercials seeking lingerie sales clerks at J. C. Penney's and offering a ".45 with holster, clips and some ammo for sale," the woman moderator or radio station KWBW's "Party Line" show exhorted her listeners today to "stay with us all day for hot-line special reports out of Washington."

Thus did some the residents of this rock-ribbed Republican city of 41,300 in Kansas wheat country learn from Washington commentators that Richard M. Nixon was going before the nation tonight to resign as President.

On Hutchinson's treeless main street, under a hot hazy sky, the news did not trigger much obvious excitement. There were no demonstrations, no huddles of excited talkers, no signs concerning the President pro or con.

The few shopper went in and out of Wiley's department store intent on summer-wear sales. Depositors moved in a businesslike manner through the bright, modest interior of the Hutchinson National Bank and Trust Company. Local eateries offered up iced Cokes to slake late-afternoon thirsts whipped up by the steamy winds gusting through town.

## Inevitability Seen

But comments elicited from residents in this city in Kansas' Fourth Congressional District, which gave Richard Nixon 68 per cent of its vote in 1972, indicated in the main the view that what had to be done was finally coming to pass.

The agreements that Mr. Nixon should leave office ranged from sorrowful admissions that he could not longer effectively lead the nation to acrid assertions that he should be pen-

alized to the fullest extent of the law the way any John Doe would be.

Some dismayed residents felt that Mr. Nixon's awesome fall from power was punishment enough; a few, while conceding that the resignation was necessary, admitted to feeling sorry for him as a troubled, almost friendless, human being who had erred—the "traditional American sympathy for the underdog," as one business leader put it.

And there were a few, like a man interviewed on Main Street, who said: "I think it's all the press's fault. They ought to put the bee on the press. A bunch of hoodlums."

"There's three fingers pointing back when you point at anybody," he said angrily, and moved on with his wife.

## Opposes Paying Pension

Bill Hazlett, a young salesman making his rounds, said he supported the President in 1972 but that now "I'd just as soon he was impeached as resign. I can't see paying his pension." Mr. Hazlett's disenchantment fell short of favoring prosecution of Mr. Nixon because "being impeached is enough."

Politicians will be more careful in the future. Mr. Hazlett asserted, adding that Mr. Nixon "made his try for the brass ring and missed. I don't feel too sorry for him."

Jo Stubbs, a housewife, said she felt that Mr. Nixon should be impeached.

"That sounds vindictive," the former Nixon supporter said, "but if the President can resign because he's been a bad boy, what will the next one do?" Mr. Nixon should be treated in the courts like anyone else, she said, adding, "We don't have a king, we just have a President."

L. W. Murphy, an 80-year-old retired cashier, smiled wan-

ly and said: "He's not the only one that's been crooked. They're all waiting there with their hands out. He ought to have been smarter than that."

Mary and Max Sampson, local farmers, were buying a shirt for Mr. Sampson at Meschke's clothing store.

"Everybody I talked to feels he's been wrong," Mrs. Sampson said. "It's just too bad."

"It's sad for the whole country," Mr. Sampson said, but he did not favor any sort of immunity for Mr. Nixon.

How did they feel about Mr. Ford?

"As long as he's honest I don't care if he's not a genius," Mrs. Sampson said. "Sometimes I think we need another Calvin Coolidge."

At the offices of the Kansas Grain and Feed Dealers Association, John Cranor, the group's executive secretary, said that resignation was "the most expedient thing he can do." "He's going to be the loneliest man in the world," he added. "That's enough. Let him have his pension."

Like others early in the impeachment controversy, Mr. Cranor said he had worried about the strain on the Constitution, but now "I think the Constitution's proven its worth in this particular instance."

Mr. Nixon's strong support among local Republican businessmen has been "reluctantly eroded," Mr. Cranor said, and it vanished almost completely with the President's revelation Monday that he had attempted to thwart an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into the Watergate break-in.

"The time had come, he's got to go," said Art Collins, chairman of the board of the Hutchinson National Bank and Trust Company who was a contributor to the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

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At Grand Central Terminal, sales of an extra edition of The New York Post were brisk