

terHorst Quits Post To Protest Pardon

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—J. F. terHorst, the White House press secretary, resigned today in protest against President Ford's granting of a pardon to former President Nixon.

Mr. terHorst, a White House spokesman said tonight, submitted his resignation to the President earlier in the day, saying that as a matter of conscience he could no longer serve the Ford Administration.

"It definitely was because of the Nixon pardon," the spokesman said.

"It was a matter of conscience and Jerry's concept of

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TERHORST RESIGNS OVER FORD ACTION

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equal justice."

Mr. terHorst was not in his office this evening and could not be reached immediately for comment.

Mr. terHorst was reached by The Associated Press, and the news service quoted him as saying that his decision had not been easy.

"It was simply after a great deal of soul-searching that I decided I couldn't in good conscience support the President's decision on former President Nixon, even though I knew he took that action in good conscience," Mr. terHorst told The AP.

It was announced that Jack Hushen who was Mr. terHorst's deputy, would serve as acting press secretary pending a decision on a permanent appointment.

Resignation a Surprise

Mr. terHorst's resignation came as a surprise. Late this afternoon he had answered reporters' questions about the pardon, giving no hint that he was displeased or that he planned to resign.

Further, he was a close friend of Mr. Ford's. The new President's first act on taking the office on Jan. 9 was to name Mr. terHorst as his press secretary, replacing Ronald L. Ziegler, who had served the Nixon Administration for five years.

Before taking the office, Mr. terHorst was bureau manager in Washington for The Detroit News. A long-time Michigan journalist, he had covered Mr. Ford for many years in Congress.

Mr. Hushen, also a former Detroit News reporter, had come from the Justice Department, where he was in charge of public relations, to serve under Mr. terHorst.

During his brief term as press secretary, Mr. terHorst had impressed reporters with his efforts to make the Ford Administration open to public exposure.

Mr. terHorst's resignation was the first defection in the Administration that will be one month old tomorrow. When he resigned, Mr. terHorst was in the process of reorganizing the



United Press International
Jerald F. terHorst

White House press office and the Office of Communications in an effort to help carry out Mr. Ford's pledge of an open Administration.