

Congress Unanimously Passes a Pledge

Gesture Viewed as Sign Of Improved Liaison

By RICHARD L. MADDEN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 —

Without a murmur of dissent, the Democratic-controlled Congress today sent President Ford "its sincere best wishes, its assurances of firm cooperation and its fervent hopes for success in office."

The resolution expressing support and describing Mr. Ford as a "good and faithful friend" was drafted by the Senate's Republican and Democratic leaders and passed by voice vote less than an hour before he took office.

A few hours later, members of the House of Representatives stood and applauded as a clerk read the resolution. They passed it, 328 to 0.

It was an unusual gesture to a former colleague and it signaled what many Congressional leaders expect will be a period of much closer cooperation between the White House and the Capitol — at least during the outset of the Ford Administration.

Mr. Ford met with Congress leaders at the White House immediately after taking the oath of office, and he will address a joint session of Congress at 9 A.M. on Monday.

Nomination Expected

After checking with the new President and no longer facing the prospects of a long battle over impeachment, the House leadership announced that the House would take a recess from Aug. 22 to Sept. 11. The Senate is planning a similar recess.

House leaders said they expected Mr. Ford to submit the name of his choice for Vice President to Congress before the recess started. This will allow the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Rules Committee, as they did last fall on Mr. Ford's nomination, to investigate the nominee and prepare for confirmation hearings.

Carl Albert, the Speaker of the House, remarked that perhaps the name of the Judiciary Committee should be changed to "the committee on impeachment and Vice-Presidential confirmations."

For the second time in less than a year, Secret Service agents appeared at the Capitol to protect Mr. Albert, an Oklahoma Democrat who is next in line to succeed to the Presidency until a new Vice President is confirmed and sworn in.

Most of the agents had guarded Mr. Albert last fall, and the Speaker appeared to be more at ease this time.

House Debate Continues

"There is always a certain feeling of responsibility," he said. "I don't feel it as much as I did the first time. You get used to these things," he told reporters.

The Senate adjourned before the noon ceremony at the White House, but the Representatives were debating a military construction bill as their former minority leader and colleague of 25 years was sworn in as President.

Representative William L. Dickinson, Republican of Alabama, interrupted the debate to announce: "Ladies and gentlemen, we now have a new Commander in Chief." The 30 or so Representatives on the floor applauded.

party conference this morning also adopted a resolution expressing "our personal sympathy and good wishes toward President Nixon and his family," Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Senate Majority Leader, told reporters.

It was, he said, "simply a personal expression of our good wishes," and did not contain "any quarrelsome language."

"And now we have a new President," Mr. Scott told the

Senate a few minutes later. He said, "The country gathers itself together, reaches for the sources of its strength, seeks the opportunity now offered for reconciliation and respite, embraces gladly the hope of unity and welcomes the spirit of cooperation."

Mr. Scott, his voice breaking with emotion at the end of his remarks, said that when the Congressional leaders left the Executive Office Building last night after meeting Mr. Nixon for the last time as President, they heard the crowd singing outside the White House fences. He added, "The sound of what they sang will live with me forever: 'God bless America, land that I love.'"

The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, Democrat of Montana, then rose in the nearly-empty Senate Chamber. "Jerry Ford has had a remarkable career because he has been so unremarkable himself," Mr. Mansfield said.

'Great Confidence'

"Now he leaves the House and leaves the Senate and goes to a new home at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. He goes there with a clean mind, with a clean heart, and with a clean record," Mr. Mansfield said, referring to the scrutiny that Mr. Ford had undergone by Congressional committees before his confirmation as Vice President.

"I think that we can have a great deal of confidence in this unassuming man from the Midwest who always lets you know where he stands and who always appreciates an opposite point of view and understands it," Mr. Mansfield said.

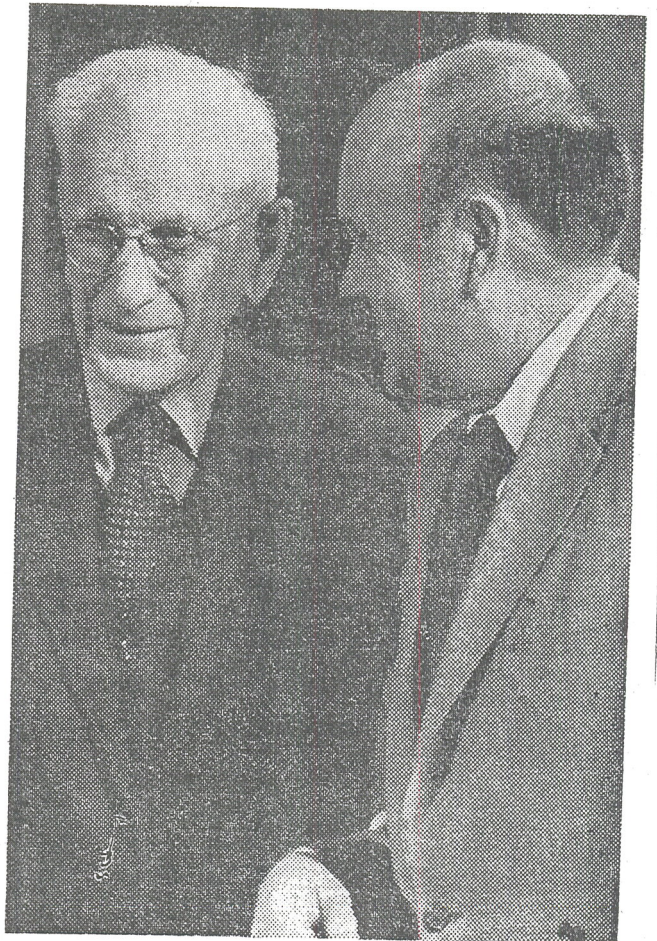
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1974

of Cooperation With

the New President

Senator John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi and one of the more influential voices in the Senate, mentioning past "investigations," said that he was "willing to let the past be the past."

He said the American people "want us to take a new start." "The first step is to back this President," he added. "He is worth of our confidence."



The New York Times
John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, left, retired Speaker of the House, conferring with Melvin R. Laird in the East Room of the White House before swearing-in Mr. Laird used to be Republican leader in the House.