

How Russia explained it

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian television viewers were told yesterday that an ambitious Democratic Party, aided by soaring inflation and a servile press, engineered the fall of Richard Nixon from the White House.

The first full Soviet explanation of Nixon's resignation claimed the Watergate affair was merely the "main weapon" in a struggle between a Republican president and a Democratic Congress.

Nowhere was Nixon connected with any wrongdoing

or involvement in Watergate, and the 30-minute report left viewers with the impression he had fallen victim to a Democratic Party conspiracy.

The government line was laid down in a special national broadcast by top political commentator Valentin Zorin and Leonid Zamyatin, chief of the state news agency, Tass.

Zamyatin asserted it was "necessary to stress" that Watergate was given a strong push into public prominence "after the Dem-

—Turn to page 8, col. 7

—From Page 2
ocrat defeat in the 1972 presidential election." permitting nationwide coverage of the House Judiciary Committee proceedings on Watergate.

After blasting the Democrats, Zamyatin turned to inflation. He called it "a reflection of the capitalist way of production" and said the Nixon administration's failure to solve it created "dissatisfaction" among Americans.

Then he zeroed in on the American press and the "propaganda background" of the Watergate issue.

Mass information, the Tass director declared, was used to "create tension around the President and that entire case."

There was a "definite emphasis on the inter-party fight and an influence on public opinion against the President by radio and by television," he said.

Zamyatin declared that the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives had pushed through a decree

"That fact demonstrates how strong were the emotions they wanted to build up over the Watergate case, putting it, so to say, before U.S. public opinion," he said.

As for the new president, Gerald Ford, the commentators offered a brief biography and stressed he was a top Republican.

They spent much of their time emphasizing that Ford and the vast majority of Americans were in favor of the policy of detente and improved Soviet-American relations.

Zamyatin reassured Russians that the agreements signed by Nixon and Brezhnev over the past three years were "supported by the Soviet and American peoples" and would not evaporate merely because Nixon had disappeared from the scene.