



UPI Telephoto

24-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL FORD
Resignation didn't surprise him

SFChronicle
Nixon Confession

AUG 12 1974

A Suggestion By Ford's Son

Essex, Mass.

President Ford's son Michael says he "would like to see Richard Nixon speak out, make a total confession of what was his role in Watergate."

The 24-year-old graduate student at the interdenominational Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Wenham, Mass., added: "I think a time of confession is hard for everyone. I would hope it would come from any individual."

Michael Ford said he was not surprised that Mr. Nixon resigned the presidency, especially after his release last Monday of three Watergate transcripts and his statement that he withheld Watergate evidence.

"I just think everyone figured it was a matter of time," Ford said in an interview on the porch of his small home 30 miles north of Boston where he lives with his wife Gayle, 23.

"I saw my Dad come back Monday, he came home and ate dinner," he said. "I saw his whole mood had changed. I think he was stunned."

"I think he really believed in the President's innocence, that the President hadn't done anything that was illegal."

Ford said, "I feel a great deal of sadness just for the fact that Richard Nixon did resign. But there was some hope too—it was a real test of the American system."

Watergate "just proved that the day-to-day nature of man is in opposition to what God would intend," said Ford.

Associated Press