

HEAD FUND-RAISER FOR FORD RESIGNS

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David Packard Reported in
Dispute Over Soliciting
\$1,000 Contributions

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—

David Packard, the chairman of President Ford's 1976 campaign finance committee, has resigned following a reported dispute over his approach to fund raising.

The White House and the President Ford Committee confirmed the resignation today but declined to say why Mr. Packard, a wealthy California conservative whose recruitment six months ago was considered a political coup, was withdrawing from the campaign post.

Mr. Packard, who was said to be on a hunting trip in Idaho, where he could not be reached, was quoted by campaign aides as having said only that he would remain as finance chairman until a successor was chosen and that he would help Mr. Ford thereafter "in any way I can."

The Second Resignation

His resignation was the second in a month by a ranking official of the Ford campaign. Lee Nunn, the director of political organization, quit last month after complaining privately that Howard H. Callaway, Mr. Ford's campaign chairman, had been lax in organizing grassroots support for the President.

The departure of Mr. Packard served to underscore the difficulty Mr. Ford appeared to be having in getting his campaign under way, an unusual problem for an incumbent President.

Many Republican party officials, in Washington and elsewhere, believe that former Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, who is not yet an announced candidate, is ahead of the President in terms of organization in several key Republican primary states.

Mr. Packard's resignation may prove more worrisome

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FORD AD

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President's Chief Fund Raiser Quits After Reported Dispute

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than Mr. Nunn's, at least in terms of public perception of how the Ford candidacy is faring, because Mr. Packard had been an ally of Mr. Reagan's before being enlisted in May to head the President's fund-gathering efforts.

Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, emphasized in confirming the resignation today that Mr. Packard had noted in a letter to the President that he was interested in "continuing to be of assistance" to Mr. Ford's candidacy.

Drain on Time

Mr. Nessen reiterated the President's public expressions of confidence in Mr. Callaway, but he declined to give any explanation for Mr. Packard's withdrawal.

Some White House and campaign committee officials, seeking to dampen speculation of continuing internal strife, said privately that they understood Mr. Packard had resigned because the fund-raising duties were consuming more of his time than he had expected.

Mr. Packard, a Deputy Secretary of Defense in the Nixon Administration had taken a leave of absence, during which he devoted half his time to his duties as the \$220,000-a-year chairman of Hewlett-Packard, a California electronics company, to serve as finance chairman.

But H. Lee Choate, the executive director of the finance committee, said he did not think the amount of time involved "had anything to do with it." He said Mr. Packard was able to do most of the fund raising from an office in his home in Palo Alto, Calif.

Not Coming in Fast

Saying that he had been surprised by the designation, Mr. Choate added that he did not know why Mr. Packard had decided to do so.

One campaign official said he knew only that Mr. Packard was "not real sore" about anything. But he said there had been "some differences" within the campaign about Mr.

Packard's preoccupation with amassing contributions of \$1,000 from traditional wealthy political donors.

"There was a feeling that the money wasn't coming in fast enough," said the official, who insisted on anonymity, "and that he was working in the traditional way."

Under the campaign reform law of 1974, individuals may give no more than \$1,000 to a Presidential candidate. Records made public early this month showed that the majority of contributors to Mr. Ford's candidacy gave the maximum.