



WILLIAM ORRICK
A formal ceremony

S.F. Judge Took Oath In a Hurry

San Francisco attorney William H. Orrick Jr. was secretly sworn in as a U.S. District Judge here less than 24 hours before former President Richard Nixon resigned from office, it was revealed yesterday.

Orrick, 58, was ceremonially sworn in yesterday before all the judges for the Northern District of California. More than 200 friends and relatives witnessed the occasion in the ceremonial courtroom on the 19th floor of the Federal Building.

Chief Judge Oliver J. Carter announced to the audience, however, that Orrick, a prominent antitrust attorney, had been privately sworn in on August 8 — the day preceding Mr. Nixon's resignation from office.

Judge Carter said this was done to avoid any possible legal complications.

Mr. Nixon signed an official proclamation on July 9, appointing Orrick a federal judge. However, had he not been sworn in until after Mr. Nixon's resignation, there was the possibility that someone could have challenged the validity of the appointment.

"I can assure you that we have fully complied with the law and there will be no such action in this district," Carter told the assembly yesterday.

Orrick was born in San Francisco in 1915 and received his law degree from the University of California in 1941. He served in the Army in World War II and was a captain in military intelligence.

He was assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's Civil Division in 1961-62 and assistant attorney general for the antitrust division from 1963 through 1965.

He is a former president and director of the San Francisco Opera Association and a former treasurer and director of the Bar Association of San Francisco.

He has most recently been a member of the Law firm of Orrick, Herrington, Rowley and Sutcliffe.