

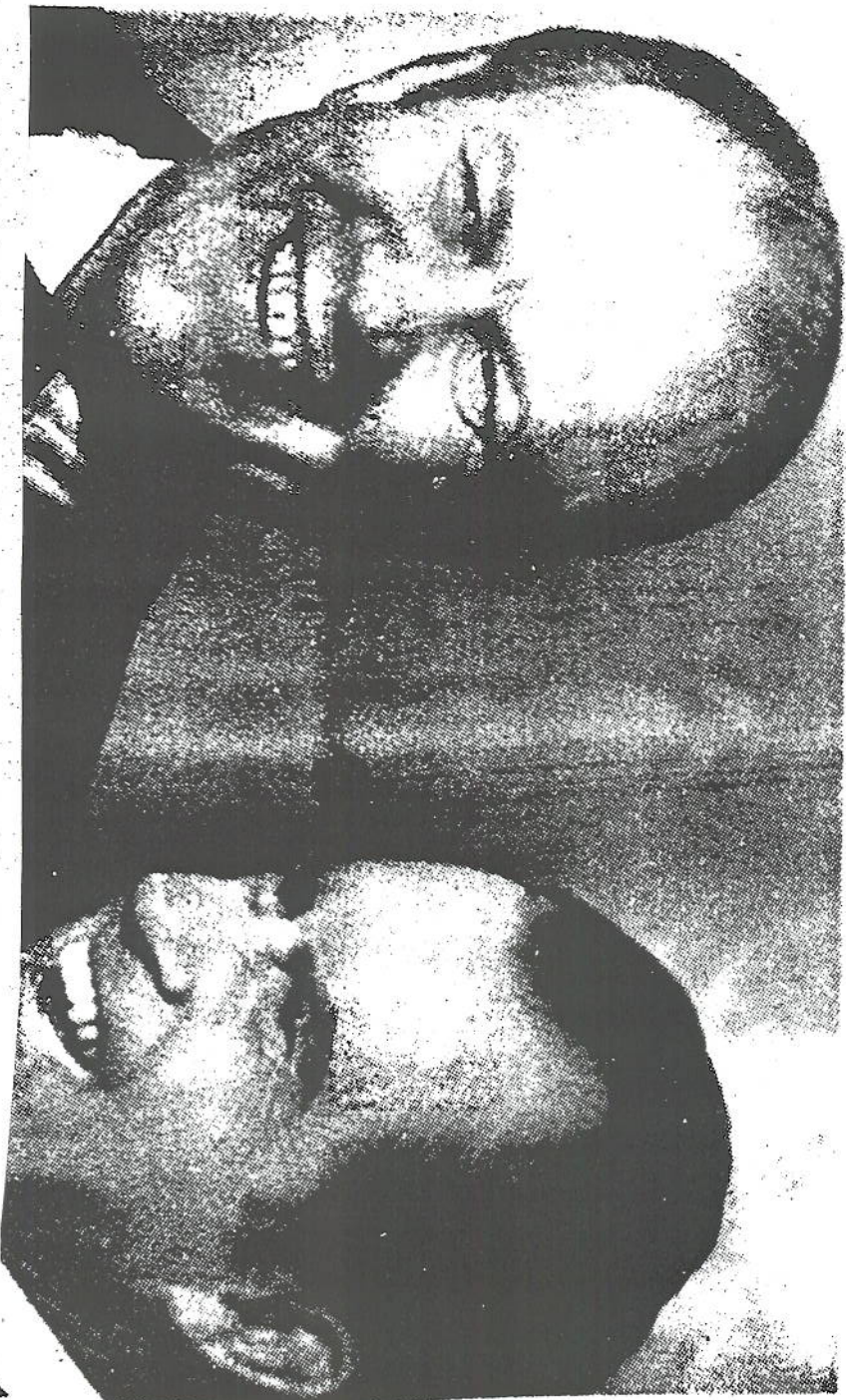
# Rep. Ford Nominated To Be Vice President

## Nixon Reveals His Pick

### Washington

President Nixon announced last night that he would nominate Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, House Republican leader, to replace Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, who was driven from office Wednesday by his involvement in Maryland political corruption.

Ford, who will become the 40th vice president of the United States if confirmed by majority vote in both houses of Congress, declared: "I'm deeply honored and I'm extremely grateful and terribly humble."



Representative Gerald Ford of Michigan and President Nixon after the announcement last night

It is expected that the longtime congressman will easily win confirmation.

1976

The vice presidential selection clearly vaulted the 60-year-old Ford into the front rank of potential contenders for the 1976 Republican presidential nomination.

However, Ford said last night he had assured Mr. Nixon that he would not seek the presidency in 1976, and then told reporters after the ceremony: "I have no intentions of running for President or vice president." Asked why not, he added: "I said I have no intention to run."

Ford pledged that if confirmed, "I will do my utmost to the best of my ability to serve this country well and to perform those duties that will be my new assignment as effectively and as efficiently and with as much accomplishment as possible."

Mr. Nixon urged Congress to act "as expeditiously as possible" on the nomination, because of the "great chal-

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lenges we face at home and abroad today." He cited the threat to peace from the Mid-east war and the economic problems posed by inflation.

"This is a time for a new beginning for America," the President said. "a new beginning in which we all dedicate ourselves to the task of meeting the challenges we face, seizing the opportunities for greatness and meeting the dangers where ever they are, at home or abroad."

The President made his nationally televised announcement under the crystal chandeliers of the White House East Room, before an

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audience of congressmen, Cabinet officials, members of the diplomatic corps and other dignitaries.

The atmosphere was festive, resembling something between a state reception and a political convention. The band struck up "Ruffles and Flourishes" and "Hail to the Chief" as the President entered the room.

**NAMING**

Near the end of his remarks, before he had named his choice, the President said he had selected a man "who has served for 25 years in the House of Representatives with great distinction." The guests, realizing whom the President had in mind, rose and gave Ford an ovation.

Mr. Nixon went on, saying his choice was a man who "has earned the respect of both Democrats and Republicans" and "who has been unwavering in his support of the policies that brought peace with honor for America in Vietnam."

Finally, the President said, if "the responsibilities of the great office which I hold should fall upon him — as has been the case with eight vice presidents in our history — we could all say: 'The leadership of America is in good hands.'"

**FAVORITE**

Mr. Nixon's choice of Ford came as something of a surprise for those who had expected him to choose former Texas governor John B. Connally, who it is widely believed had been Mr. Nixon's own favorite to succeed him in 1976.

The Ford nomination seemed designed to avoid opposition from Democrats and other Republicans that would have arisen had Mr. Nixon chosen Connally, or either of Connally's two

chief rivals for the 1976 nomination — Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York and Governor Ronald Reagan of California.

Close friends of Ford had expected him to retire from Congress after one more term, since there seemed little chance the Republicans could gain control of the House and elevate him to Speaker.

**REPUTATION**

Since his election to minority leader in January 1965, Ford has built a reputation for loyalty and service which has won him many friends and few enemies, within his own party. "No one doesn't like Gerry Ford," one House colleague said.

But his firm partisanship has at times provoked antagonisms and even scorn among Democrats. Irritated by his opposition to a piece of Great Society legislation, President Lyndon B. Johnson once remarked of Ford, a University of Michigan football player: "Too bad, too bad, that's what happens when you play football too long without a helmet."

The announcement of Ford's nomination came as one of the most critical weeks of Mr. Nixon's presidency drew to an end. On Wednesday, his vice presi-

dent quit and pleaded no contest to charges of income tax evasion in federal court.

Only a few hours before the President disclosed his choice of Ford he received another jolt. The U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling requiring him to turn over the Watergate tapes for judicial inspection and possible use by the special Watergate prosecutor.

**MENTION**

The President made mention of neither matter in his remarks. He did call for "the support of millions of our fellow Americans all across this land," and also asked for "bipartisan support in the Congress of the United States in matters in which no partisanship should ever enter."

In responding to the President's remarks, Ford said: "It seems to me that we want in America a united America. I hope I have some assets that might be helpful in working with the Congress and doing what I can throughout our country to make America a united America."

Many people here suspected that the President had known for some time who he would name, but the official White House line was that the decision came as the result of consultations with a wide range of Republican

political leaders and public officials.

After consultations with his staff and a number of political leaders and after asking for the suggestions of Republican members of Congress, Republican governors and the 150 members of the Republican national committee, Mr. Nixon flew to Camp David Thursday night to make his decision, according to his spokesmen.

"He had dinner at Camp David last night alone," White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said yesterday. "He told me this morning that he had a good night's sleep. He said he slept for about seven hours and got up this morning at 6:30, and he made the decision, he said, this morning, after considering it last night."

Ziegler, announcing the Nixon speech shortly before noon, added: "The President also said that in considering this matter that last night he had reduced the number under consideration to five individuals and this morning made the decision. He left Camp David at 8 o'clock and was here at his desk at 8:30 this morning. He informed members of his staff when he arrived at the White House this morning that he intended to announce it tonight at 9 p.m."



AP Wirephoto

**GERALD FORD AND SPIRO AGNEW**  
They were smiling at an elephant statuette at a 1972 luncheon