

# Reaction in Congress-- Praise From All Sides

Washington

Congressional Democrats and Republicans last night received President Nixon's choice of Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to be vice president with widespread enthusiasm.

The reaction indicated that the nomination of Ford, who has been the House Republican leader since 1965, would be confirmed relatively quickly by both houses, barring some unforeseen development.

However, it was expected that the Senate would take more time than the House in considering the nomination.

"My own feeling is Jerry will probably be confirmed," said House Speaker Carl Albert (Dem-Okla.).

He added:

"I think I was the first in Congress to tell the President that Jerry would be the easiest candidate to sell to the House. He's a very fine man to work with. I think he earned this."

## SENATE

Senator Robert W. Byrd, the Democratic majority whip, said he did not think it would be proper "to pass final judgment at this time" but added: "I do think he will be well-received by the

Senate . . . at the moment I foresee no problem."

Senator —Howard W. Cannon (Dem-Nev.) described Ford as "the logical choice. I should think he would have an easier time than others who had been mentioned."

"I'm very pleased," said Senator Harrison A. Williams Jr. (Dem-N.J.).

Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania said it was "an excellent nomination. It resolves many differences on confirmation."

He said that the Senate will conduct hearings but "of course the House will whoop it through."

"It solves all kinds of problems," said Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, the Republican whip.

## LIBERALS

The first reaction from liberal Democrats in the Senate also was favorable.

"He is going to be perfectly acceptable to the Congress, and the nomination will pass in days," said Senator Gaylord Nelson (Dem-Wis.). "There will be no dispute over this."

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), said Ford has had "an outstanding career . . . and I foresee no difficulty whatever in his confirmation by the Senate."

Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) also said he expects that Ford "will have no difficulty being confirmed by the congress."

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (Dem-Me.) said Ford's selection was "a choice I can support without reservation."

Senator Henry M. Jackson (Dem-Wash.) said he thought the Senate would take "a little more time than the House" in considering the nomination but described Ford as a "first-rate professional."

Senator Birch Bayh (Dem-Ind.), the author of the 25th amendment to the Constitution that provides for filling the vacancy in the vice presidency, said that he thought Ford would have relatively easy going. He estimated that hearings in the Senate would last a week or two.

"We'll move with all deliberate speed, but it's important that we don't establish a rubber stamp precedent."

Representative John J. McFall (Dem-Calif.), the majority whip, said the House Democrats would caucus on Wednesday to discuss the matter. "He should have no trouble at all," he said of Ford.

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