

GERALD FORD NAMED BY NIXON

AS THE SUCCESSOR TO AGNEW

**MOVE IS SURPRISE**

**House G.O.P. Leader  
Would Be the 40th  
Vice President**

By JOHN HERBERS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 — Gerald Rudolph Ford of Michigan, the 60-year-old minority leader of the House of Representatives, was nominated by President Nixon tonight to be the 40th Vice President of the United States.

Mr. Nixon, making the surprise announcement on national television and radio shortly after 9 P.M., said that he would

*Texts of Nixon and Ford remarks are on Page 19.*

send the nomination to Congress tomorrow. Because of Mr. Ford's long service in that body, 25 years, he was expected to be easily confirmed.

Under the 25th Amendment, ratified in 1967 and never used before tonight, the nomination must be approved by simple majorities of both the House and the Senate before he can take office.

Mr. Ford's selection came two days after Spiro T. Agnew, who had served in the office almost five years, resigned, pleaded no contest to income tax evasion, was fined \$10,000 and was placed on probation for three years.

**Move Toward Unity**

In a brief announcement speech in the East Room of the White House, Mr. Nixon made it clear that he had chosen a respected member of Congress for the post because he considered it essential for national unity to select a person who would not be the subject of a protracted and bitter fight in Congress.

It was learned that Mr. Nixon had given strong consideration to former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally but that leaders in the Democratic-controlled Congress had served notice they would oppose him. They opposed Mr. Connally because he recently switched to the Republican party and because it would have appeared

that Mr. Nixon was setting him up for the Presidency in the 1976 elections.

Mr. Ford, the President said, "has earned the respect of both Democrats and Republicans."

**'Unwavering' on Vietnam**

"He is a man also who has been unwavering in his support of the policies that brought peace with honor for America in Vietnam and in support of the policies for a strong national defense," Mr. Nixon said.

Several score Congressional leaders, Cabinet members and other high Government officials burst into cheers and surrounded the baldish, tanned Republican and offered congratulations even before Mr. Nixon uttered his name. They knew he was the nominee when Mr. Nixon said his choice "is a man who has served for 25 years in the House of Representatives with great distinction."

Mr. Ford, the President said, met the three criteria he had set for the nominee—that "the

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individual who serves as Vice President must be qualified to be President," that he "must be one who shares the views of the President on the critical issues of foreign policy and national defense" and that he must be able to "work with members of both parties in the Congress in getting approval for those programs of the Administration which we consider are vital for the national interest."

In a brief acceptance speech, Mr. Ford, smiling broadly but appearing a little tired, pledged to "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."

**Notified in Evening**

Even though Mr. Nixon made his decision early this morning at Camp David, Mr. Ford was not notified until 7:30 o'clock this evening.

Both houses of Congress will meet tomorrow morning to receive the nomination.

In the House, the nomination will go first to the Judiciary Committee for hearings and action on the President's selection before going to the floor for a vote. The Senate, however, was snarled in disagreement as to what procedure it would follow in considering the President's selection.

The President, seeking to restore confidence in his Administration in the wake of the Agnew case and of White House involvement in the Watergate scandal, staged the announcement as part of an address to the nation in prime television time. In the East Room for the occasion were members of Congress, Cabinet members and their wives, members of the Supreme Court and other high Government servants.

**Secret Kept 12 Hours**

Keeping the nomination secret for 12 hours, while Washington and much of the nation buzzed with rumors and speculation as to whom he would select, was a move designed to increase the television audience and focus attention on the new direction that Mr. Nixon and his associates say the Administration is taking.

Many people here suspected that the President had known for some time whom he would name as an Agnew successor, but the official White House

version was that the decision occurred as a result of Mr. Nixon's consulting 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 last night to make his decision, his spokesman said.

"He had dinner at Camp David last night alone," Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said today. "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."

**Reduced List to Five**

Mr. Ziegler, announced 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."

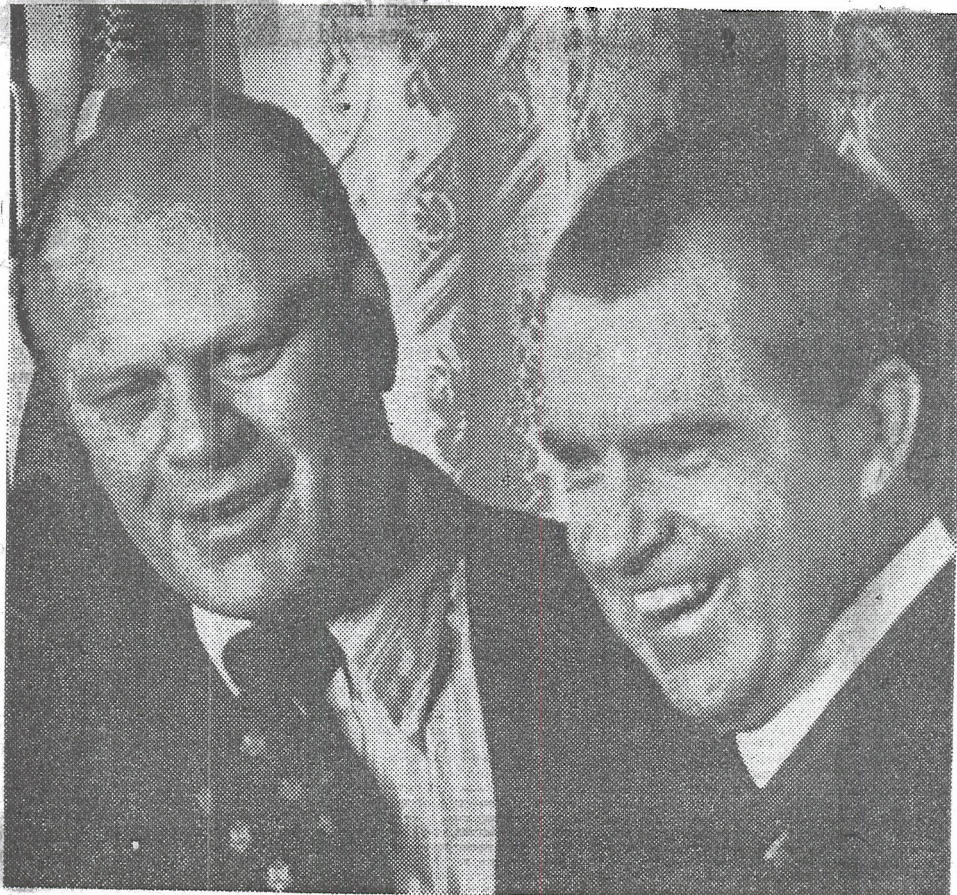
Mr. Ziegler would not disclose the names of the five finalists, adding to the suspense.

Earlier, Mr. Nixon told Congressional leaders that he would choose a person of Presidential ability who would have a reasonable chance of being approved by Congress and who was in tune with his foreign policy.

The opportunity for Mr. Nixon to nominate a new Vice President and not have the Agnew case drag on in the courts for months or years was welcomed in the White House. It was disclosed yesterday that the President, through his attorneys, had initiated the legal negotiations that led to the agreement under which Mr. Agnew resigned and did not have to go to jail, according to authoritative Government sources.

Some of Mr. Nixon's assistants said that the President was now in a better position to put the scandals behind him and restore confidence in his Administration, both among the public and in Congress.

See letter to Editor, NYT 22 Oct 73,  
written by Edwin S. Shneidman.



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**Gerald R. Ford with President, after Mr. Nixon nominated him for Vice President**