

# House Vote on Ford Today

## --Swearing-In Expected

### Washington

Gerald Ford is expected to take the oath of office as the nation's 40th vice president in the House chamber this afternoon with President Nixon looking on.

The House will vote on confirmation after a debate that could last six hours, and while 30 to 50 votes may be cast against Ford as being weak on civil rights or leadership qualities his confirmation is assured. "I wish I were as certain of everything else," said Speaker Carl Albert.

After the vote is tallied, Ford will drive to the White House to inform Mr. Nixon and drive back to the capitol with him. They will enter the House chamber together and the oat of office whill be administered by Chief Justice Warren Burger around 4:30 p.m.

Ford will take the oath with his hand on a Bible heldby his wife and belong-

ing to his son Michael, a theological seminary student.

Ford will make a brief speech in the chamber where he has served for 25 years, the last nine as Republican leader, and then will lead the senators back to their chamber and assume his new duties as president of the Senate. The joint meeting of House and Senate will also be attended by members of the Supreme Court, the diplomatic corps and the President's cabinet.

Mr. Nixon will be witnessing an event that is expected to trigger Republican Party pressures on him to resign and relieve his party of the Watergate albatross. Until Ford takes the oath of office, Speaker Albert is next in line to become president, and Republicans don't want to turn over the presidency to a Democrat.

Ford will succeed Spiro Agnew, who resigned Octo-

ber 10 and was then fined for tax evasion. This is the 17th time that the office has become vacant, through death, resignation or succession to the presidency. But it is the first time that the vacancy has been filled.

The 25th Amendment, ratified in 1967, provides that a vacancy may be filled by nomination by the president and majority vote by each house of Congress. The Senate approved Ford by a vote of 92 to 3.

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