
Albert Glad

It's Over

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SFC

Washington

Speaker Carl Albert, who for nearly eight weeks was a heartbeat away from the presidency, sighed with relief yesterday when Gerald B. Ford took the oath of office as vice president.

When Ford repeated the oath of office that puts him next in line to President Nixon, the Secret Service escort that has surrounded Albert 24 hours a day since October 10 melted away.

After Spiro T. Agnew resigned as vice president, Albert was the first Democratic leader to call on Mr. Nixon to nominate a successor as early as possible and ask for "expeditious" Senate and House action to confirm the President's choice.

Albert repeatedly told newsmen he did not want the job of President and could not agree under any terms with demands of some Democrats to push impeachment proceedings against Mr. Nixon and hold the Ford nomination as a hostage.

United Press
