

The following is a transcript of the swearing-in ceremony of Vice President Ford in the House of Representatives yesterday, and a brief address by Mr. Ford, as recorded by The New York Times.

**The Swearing-In**

**SPEAKER CARL ALBERT:** The Senate, by a vote of 92 yeas to three nays on Nov. 27, 1973, having confirmed the nomination of Gerald R. Ford of the State of Michigan to be Vice President of the United States, and the House of Representatives by a vote of 387 yeas to 35 nays, on today having confirmed the nomination of Gerald R. Ford of the State of Michigan to be Vice President of the United States, the proceedings required by Section 2 of the 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution have been complied with.

The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Gerald R. Ford, has advised the Chair that he has transmitted his letter of resignation as a Representative of the Fifth District of the State of Michigan to the Governor and the Secretary of the State of Michigan as required by the law of that state.

The chair now requests the Chief Justice of the United States to administer the oath of office to the Vice President.

**CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER:** Raise your right hand, Mr. Ford. Place your hand on the Bible, and repeat after me; I, Gerald R. Ford do solemnly swear.

**MR. FORD:** I, Gerald R. Ford, do solemnly swear.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** That I will

support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

**MR. FORD:** That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** Against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

**MR. FORD:** Against all enemies foreign and domestic.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

**MR. FORD:** That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** That I take this obligation freely.

**MR. FORD:** That I take this obligation freely.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** Without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

**MR. FORD:** Without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** And that I will well and faithfully discharge.

**MR. FORD:** That I will well and faithfully discharge.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** The duties of the office.

**MR. FORD:** The duties of the office.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** On which I am about to enter.

**MR. FORD:** Of the office on which I am about to enter.

**CHIEF JUSTICE:** So help me God.

**MR. FORD:** So help me God.

**MR. ALBERT:** Mr. President, members of the Congress and distinguished guests, I have the high personal honor of presenting to you a dear friend and former colleague, whom we shall all miss but whom we all congratulate, the Vice President of the United States.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker,

Mr. Chief Justice, Mr. President Pro Tempore, distinguished guests, and friends: Together we have made history here today. For the first time we have carried out the commands of the 25th Amendment.

In exactly eight weeks we have demonstrated to the world that our great Republic stands solid, stands strong upon the bedrock of the Constitution.

I'm a Ford, not a Lincoln.

My addresses will never be as eloquent as Mr. Lincoln's. But I will do my very best to equal his brevity and his plain speaking.

I'm deeply grateful to you, Mr. President, for the trust and the confidence your nomination implied.

As I have throughout my public service under six administrations, I will try to set a high example of respect for the crushing and lonely burdens which the nation lays upon the President of the United States.

Mr. President, you have my support and my loyalty.

**Thanks Congress**

To the Congress assembled, my former colleagues who have lected me on behalf of our fellow countrymen, I express my heartfelt thanks.

As a man of the Congress, let me reaffirm my conviction that the collective wisdom of our two great legislative bodies while not infallible will in the end serve the people faithfully and very, very well.

I will not forget the people of Michigan who sent me to this chamber; or the friends that I have found here.

Mr. Speaker, I understand

# and His Address to Congress

that the United States Senate intends in a very few minutes to bind me by its rules. For their presiding officer, this amounts practically to a vow of silence.

Mr. Speaker, you know how difficult this is going to be for me. Before I go from this house, which has been my home for a quarter-century, I must say I am forever in its debt.

And particularly, Mr. Speaker, thank you, for your friendship which I certainly am not leaving. To you, Mr. Speaker, and to all of my friends here, however you voted an hour ago, I say a very fond good-by. May God bless the House of Representatives and guide all of you in the days ahead.

Mr. Chief Justice, may I thank you personally for administering the oath.

And thank each of the honorable Justices for honoring me with your attendance.

## Laws and Justice

I pledge to you, as I did the day I was first admitted to the bar, my dedication to the rule of law and equal justice for all Americans.

For standing by my side, as she always has, there are no words to tell you, my dear wife and mother of our four wonderful children, how much their being here means to me.

As I look into the faces that fill this familiar room; and as I imagine those faces in other rooms across the land, I do not see members of the legislative branch, or the executive branch, or the judicial branch—though I am very much aware of the im-

portance of keeping the separate but coequal branches of our Federal Government in balance — I do not see Senators or Representatives, nor do I see Republicans or Democrats, vital as the two-party system is to sustain freedom and responsible government.

## 'I See Only Americans'

At this moment of visible and living unity, I see only Americans. I see Americans who love their country. Americans who work and sacrifice for their country and their children. I see Americans who pray without ceasing for peace among all nations and for harmony at home.

I see new generations of concerned and courageous Americans—but the same kind of Americans; the children and grandchildren of those Americans who met the challenge of Dec. 7—just 32 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I like what I see.

Mr. Speaker I am not discouraged. I am indeed humble to be the 40th Vice President of the United States. But I am proud, very proud to be one of 200 million Americans.

I promise, my fellow citizens, only this: To uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me to see the right and within the limited powers and duties of the Vice-Presidency to do the very best that I can for America.

I will do these things with all the strength and good sense that I have and with your help and through your prayers.

Thank you.