

CLOSE NIXON TIES EXPECTED BY FORD

Daily Talk Planned—Scott
Says Vice President Will
Enter 'Highest Councils'

By CLIFTON DANIEL

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 —

Vice President Ford disclosed today that, contrary to the practice with his predecessor, he expected to confer with President Nixon at least once a day. He said that the arrangement had been suggested by Mr. Nixon.

Later, after a meeting with the President at the White House, Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Senate minority leader, said that Mr. Ford would be brought into the "highest councils" of the Government.

The Vice President, talking to a group of reporters at breakfast, said that if he and Mr. Nixon could not meet on a given day, they would have an extensive telephone conversation.

When a skeptical questioner recalled that others had thought they had regular access to the President but found they did not, Mr. Ford said that others had thought they had regular access to the President but found they did not. Mr. Ford said that he saw or talked with Mr. Nixon every day since he was sworn in as Vice President last Thursday, with the exception of Sunday.

While he doubted that he would have any executive functions, Vice President Ford said that he was receiving the same "briefing books"—daily digests of information—as the President, was discussing foreign policy at every other session with Mr. Nixon, expected to attend every general meeting of the National Security Council and would assume some liaison duties with Congress if Melvin R. Laird and Bryce N. Harlow resigned as the President's domestic advisers, as they intended to do.

Wants Aides to Stay

Mr. Ford said that he was trying, however, to persuade the two advisers to stay on.

Further details of the Vice President's role were given by Senator Scott and Representative John J. Rhodes of Arizona, who succeeded Mr. Ford as House minority leader, after talking with President Nixon. They said that Mr. Ford would attend weekly meetings of the Republicans in Congress, talk to individual Senators and function as an ambassador between the White House and the Capitol and vice versa.

Gerald L. Warren, the White House spokesman, later confirmed that the Vice President would attend the meetings of various high-level policy groups, such as the Emergency Energy Action Group, headed by Mr. Nixon, and the "quadriad," the Government's four top economic policy makers.

Asked why such responsibilities had been given to Mr. Ford and not to former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, Mr. Warren said "the individual and the individual's experience" helped to define his role.

This was taken to mean that Mr. Ford, who served in Congress 25 years, knows more about Washington and how it works than his predecessor, and that his experience is being put to use.

He Will Also Travel

Aside from his advisory functions, Mr. Ford said that he would also travel around the country speaking "affirmatively" for the Nixon Administration, particularly on foreign policy. But, seeming to draw a sharp distinction between himself and Mr. Agnew, he said, "I'm not going to take any direction. I will campaign in coordination with the White House, but I'm not going to be told where to go."

While traveling and speaking, Mr. Ford reiterated, he will not be campaigning for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1976. He said, "I took this job for three years, to do the best I could, with no anticipation of trying to get delegates and convince the public I want to be President. I will do none of that."

"That's positive," he said, slapping the breakfast table for emphasis. When someone observed that his statement did not bar others from campaigning on his behalf, Mr. Ford asked, "Well, can I add that?" Everybody laughed, and one voice said, "Don't go too far."

Mr. Ford described his position as being "about as close to a Shermanesque statement as you can get." Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman sent a message to the Republican convention of 1884 saying, "I will not accept if nominated and will not serve if elected."

Mr. Ford reaffirmed his support for President Nixon, who nominated him to the Vice Presidency. He urged that the House Judiciary Committee carry out its investigation of charges against the President with "reasonable speed."

He added that, if the Democrats wanted a vote in the House on an impeachment resolution against the President, the committee should not "dilly-dally." It will have to act in the first three or four months of 1974, he said, because the resolution will die with this Congress. Meanwhile, he said, he has seen no evidence of impeachable offenses.