

WXPast

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Knight Urges Ford Get Presidency

MIAMI, July 20 (UPI)—John S. Knight, the editorial chairman of Knight Newspapers, Inc., has called for President Nixon to leave office and for Gerald R. Ford to assume the presidency and appoint a bipartisan Cabinet.

Knight, in a column distributed to Knight's 16 daily newspapers for publication Sunday, said Watergate "has de-

stroyed public confidence in government at all levels" and Mr. Nixon cannot be an effective president for the rest of his term.

The newspaper group includes the Miami Herald, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Detroit Free Press. Knight supported Nixon in 1960 and 1968, but endorsed no one in 1972.

"Whether President Nixon is guilty

or innocent, he can never reconstitute the authority and respect he held before Watergate," Knight said.

"So he ought to be out of there, either by impeachment or resignation, and turn the job over to Gerald R. Ford," who "could then clean house of the ineffectiveness and appoint a bipartisan Cabinet much as Franklin D. Roosevelt did in World War II."