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**Ford Staff Mapping Transition Plan**

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By David S. Broder and Jules Witcover

Washington Post Staff Writers

Associates of Vice President Gerald R. Ford have been working since Monday night on contingency planning for the transition to a Ford administration, one of them acknowledged last night.

This planning would have Ford, on assuming the presidency, take the following steps:

- Deliver a brief speech to the American people, calling on the nation to unite behind him, praising the courage of President Nixon for stepping down and asking everyone to put the crisis needs of the country first.

- Ask all Cabinet members and key aides to stay on, with special emphasis on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, whose public popularity is recognized as a source of particular strength for a new administration and President.

- Convert to a Ford team in the White House through gradual transition, and maintain a more open staff operation, in keeping with Ford's own personality and style. In these and other steps, the clear intent

would be to bolster public confidence that the wheels of government will continue to turn, while injecting into the public consciousness Ford's own spirit of good will as he embarks on the presidency.

(The Chicago Sun-Times in a story by Morton Kondracke of its Washington Bureau, said Ford had instructed his staff to draw up a list of potential vice presidential choices, and 14 names had been compiled, including:

Former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird; former Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York; former Attorney General Elliott L. Richardson; Gov. Ronald Reagan of California; Sens. Howard H. Baker Jr. and Bill Brock of Tennessee, Charles H. Percy of Illinois, Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon, Robert Stafford of Vermont, Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts, and Reps. John B. Anderson of Illinois, Albert H. Quie of Minnesota, and former Sen. Charles E. Goodell of New York.)

The planning went forward yesterday as Ford once again experienced the pressures of what appears to be his certain elevation to

the White House. He was riding to Capitol Hill for a breakfast meeting of the Chowder and Marching Society, a House Republican social group, when he got a call to go to the White House.

His car turned and took him to his Executive Office Building suite, where he conferred for about an hour with Alexander M. Haig Jr., President Nixon's chief of staff. Paul Millich, Ford's press secretary, would say only that the two had "exchanged views about the current situation."

Ford also visited the office of his old friend, House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes of Arizona, and was cheered and applauded by tourists. He conferred in his Dirksen Office Building suite with Senate Assistant Minority Leader Robert P. Griffin, and as he left, a woman shouted at him:

"Don't pick Rockefeller for Vice President! Don't pick Rockefeller!"

Ford smiled but said nothing and walked on. One of Ford's closest confidants, Laird said Tuesday he, Laird, favored Rockefeller to re-

See **FORD, A8, Col. 1**

## FORD, From A1

place Ford as Vice President in a Ford administration.

Speculation grew through the early afternoon that President Nixon would resign later in the day, and Ford went to his EOB office for staff meetings and to prepare for a planned 12-day speaking tour scheduled to start at noon today but obviously contingent on what the President might do.

The schedule calls for Ford to visit California, the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii primarily to raise campaign money for Republican congressional candidates. Departure was scheduled from Andrews Air Force Base aboard a military version of the Boeing 707, accompanied by staff, Secret Service and an unusually large press and television contingent on a trip that conceivably could end with his elevation to the presidency.

The Vice President plans to spend two days in Los Angeles, then go to Monterey, Calif., to be a guest at the home of an old friend, former GOP Rep. Jack Westland of Washington State, for five nights. From Monterey, he would go out daily around California and once into Idaho

for speeches, predominantly at fund-raising lunches and dinners.

On Aug. 15, the Ford party would fly to Spokane, Wash., and Portland, Ore., for two more party speeches and then to Honolulu, where the Vice President is scheduled to address the American Bar Association convention and take two days' rest. On the way back, he would speak in Chicago and Joliet, Ill., returning to Washington late on Aug. 19—the day the House is scheduled to start debate on three articles of impeachment against Mr. Nixon.

Those associates of Ford involved in the contingency planning and other friends say he will come to the American people primarily as a conciliator, using the dramatic nature of his ascendancy to the presidency to appeal for national unity and sacrifice.

They suggest Ford will place at the head of his agenda the healing of the nation's political and economic wounds and will conduct domestic and foreign policies that will differ more in style than in substance with those of Mr. Nixon.

As part of the bipartisan tone he will adopt to salvage something from the political debris of Watergate, he has indicated privately, he will consider bringing one or more Democrats into his administration.

And to combat inflation, which he has called "Public Enemy No. 1," his associates expect him to place more pressures on both business and labor—"jawboning"—to keep prices and costs down, and to seek deeper cuts in domestic programs, while remaining a stout defender of military spending.

The most prominent policy change may be a more aggressive effort to hold down government spending, as long advocated by Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and a man greatly admired by Ford.

Aware that there is opportunity in the crisis climate in which he would assume office, his associates say, Ford very probably would address the nation in the early days of his presidency to appeal for a general belt-tightening, coupled with a pep talk on the nation's ability to bounce back.

Ford would be a more open administration, because it is in the nature of the man and the way he has operated, his friends say.

Throughout his 25 years in Congress and his brief tenure as Vice President, he has held frequent press conferences and is both communicative and at ease in them. In his Senate confirmation hearings to be Vice President, he said flatly "it would be my intention" to hold regularly scheduled press conferences.

Ford's associates also say he would place greater reliance on Cabinet members than Mr. Nixon has done. "Over the next months," says one old Capitol Hill associate, "it will become more obvious that we have more of a Cabinet-style government than ever since Eisenhower."

A more conciliatory approach to Congress than in the Nixon years is likely as well. One of the reasons Ford gave Monday night for withdrawing from the impeachment debate, he said then, was his determination "to be a calm communicator and ready conciliator between the executive and legislative branches."

Throughout his vice presidency, he has shuttled between downtown and Capitol Hill almost daily, meeting and conferring with his old congressional colleagues. In his presidency, he could be expected to be a much better listener to the voices from Capitol Hill than Mr. Nixon has been, and a more sympathetic one.

Because Ford as Vice President has not wished to compromise President Nixon's position or crowd him, he has been unwilling to discuss publicly the components of a Ford administration or to take any preliminary actions himself toward constructing one.

But on Monday night, after Mr. Nixon had acknowledged involvement in the Watergate cover-up six days after the break-in, the imminence of his presidency became clear, a source said. The defections from pro-Nixon ranks that day of Senate Assistant Minority Leader Griffin and Rep. Charles E. Wiggins (R-Calif.), Mr. Nixon's most impressive defender in impeachment deliberations of the House Judiciary Committee, set Ford associates planning.

To assure continuity, the plan calls for Ford to ask all presidential staff aides as well as the Cabinet to stay on for a time, with the new President building his own staff over the next few months.

He has already indicated in a magazine interview earlier this year that he would ask President Nixon's chief of staff, Haig, to stay. But there is an awareness also that the public will expect some house-cleaning after the excesses of Watergate. Ronald L. Ziegler, Mr. Nixon's press secretary and prime spokesman, almost certainly will go out with his boss.

Nearly all of Ford's friends in town expect that Laird will become a strong man in a Ford administration. Some suggest he will be nominated to be Vice President; others believe that sooner or later Laird will become the White House chief of staff.

Others likely to be asked aboard early include Bryce Harlow, legislative and political adviser for Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon; Quie, one of Ford's closest friends in Congress, and Goodell, who was in the House Republican leadership with Ford.

One man who recently left the Nixon administration, former Secretary of the Treasury George Shultz, was high in Ford's estimation and might be asked back in some capacity. He has also been quoted as saying he would want Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan and one of his good friends, Secretary of Interior Rogers C. B. Morton, to stay on.

The key men on Ford's vice presidential staff who are expected to move over to the White House with him are Robert T. Hartmann, former Washington bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times, his chief of staff; Richard T. Burrell, congressional liaison; former Democratic Rep. John O. Marsh, his defense specialist, and L. William Seidman, administrator of the staff.

Ford is regarded as a man who likes to make his own decisions from options put before him, but also one who relies on staff work. Both the National Security Council and the Domestic Council are expected to be

major tools in a Ford administration.

Also, he has already said that party leaders of the future should look to the existing party structure, the Republican National Committee, to run presidential campaigns, rather than establishing special arms like the Committee for the Re-election of the President, which was a key ingredient in Mr. Nixon's downfall.

Earlier this year, Ford blasted the committee as "an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents" and urged that all GOP presidential candidates of the future be required to pledge they would "learn the lesson of Watergate" by not using similar independent campaign units.

In most respects, however, Ford is an orthodox Republican politician and conservative, given much to simple slogans and answers. In his speeches this summer at GOP fund-raisers he has liked to divide Congress in "the savers and the spenders"—Republicans being the savers.

He tells audiences: "A government that is big enough to give you everything you need is a government big enough to take away everything you have."

In New Orleans Saturday, in an exchange with a reporter about the worth of federal programs, Ford said: "There's nothing sacrosanct about a federal program. The quicker we get rid of all of them, the better off we'll be."

But after touring the federal assisted Crippled Children's Hospital of New Orleans the next afternoon, he told the young patients and hospital staff their achievement "shows what the federal government can do for people like yourselves."

The remarks demonstrate that Ford is a plainspeaking politician sometimes given to oversimplification for the sake of making a point, and a man capable of contradicting himself.

As the presidency has moved closer to him, crowds have warmed to him, and to his relaxed and open style. Though he will be taking over at a time of public disenchantment with government, Ford's own personality should help create the positive climate he will need to achieve the national unity that is his goal.