Washington

Gerald R. Ford last night named Jerald F. terHorst, Washington bureau chief of the Detroit News, as the new White House press secretary.

TerHorst, 52, was the first appointment made by Ford following the announcement by President Nixon that he will resign, to be succeeded by his vice president.

In a telephone interview, terHorst said Ford asked him to accept the job as presidential spokesman "on a transitional basis."

But terHorst, a newsman for 31 years, said Ford indicated the appointment would be permanent as long as ter-Horst wanted to stay in the job.

Paul Miltich, a sp)kesman for Ford over the last several years, will remain as part of the press staff, terHorst said.

TerHorst first werked for the Grand Rapids, Mich., Press, then moved to the News in Detroit in 1952. He joined the Washington bureau in 1957 and became bureau chief in 1961.

A pipesmoker and member of the Gridiron Club, ter-Horst was identified during the Senate Watergate hearings last summer as the newsman to whom former White House aide Charles W. Colson tried to leak material about Daniel Ellsberg's attorney.

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