

## Sense of Relief On Capitol Hill

### Washington

The country's leaders, from the men of Congress who forced his departure to the associates who stubbornly stuck by him, expressed sadness and a tingle of relief at President Nixon's resignation last night.

"The long, dark night is over," said Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) "Let the country awake to a new day, united behind our new President."

While official Washington was looking toward the new Ford administration, its emotional feelings were reserved for the outgoing President.

"No one draws any particular joy from the sadness of another man," said Senator George S. McGovern (Dem-S.D.) the man Mr. Nixon defeated in the 1972 election.

"I am sorry about it both from a personal point of view and what it means to the nation but it had to come," said Senator Barry M. Goldwater (Rep-Ariz.), one of Mr. Nixon's early de-

fenders and one of the men who met with him Wednesday to tell him his situation in Congress was grim. He said the "two saddest days of my life have been yesterday and today."

"It was a courageous speech in which he recognized the fact that he had lost credibility with the people. What he has done is in the best interests of the country," said House Democratic leader Thomas P. O'Neill (Dem-Mass.), one of the first congressional leaders to call for Mr. Nixon's exit from office.

"The President's resignation is clearly in the best interest of the nation," said Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem.-Mass.). "I am sure that Congress and the country will close ranks behind President Ford as America enters a period of nation healing and reconciliation."

Senator Charles Percy (Rep-Ill.), said the Republican party will be helped and could have been hurt if Mr. Nixon had not resigned.

"The future of the Republican party is not Nixon," he said, "But Nixon would have been a problem if he had still been present. This problem has been minimized by his decision."

Representative Bella A. Abzug (Dem-N.Y.), an outspoken supporter of impeachment, said constitutional government and the impeachment process had been vindicated by Mr. Nixon's resignation.

"The would-be king is gone," she said. "Long live the presidency."

Representative Robert McClory of Illinois, second-ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, said of Mr. Nixon's resignation: "I am very grateful for that decision. I think the people now will stop and reflect on his great accomplishment as President and he will have a great deal of opportunity to re-establish his stature as world leader."