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# Ford's Speech Is Acclaimed By Leaders of Both Parties

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Congressional leaders of both parties yesterday praised President Ford's first address to the nation in such terms as "magnificent" and "superb."

"It will undoubtedly bring the country together," said Senate Republican Leader

Hugh Scott. "His line about 'openness and candor' should set the tone for all Americans to follow."

"Magnificent," Scott commented.

"It was authentic Jerry Ford," Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield said. "It was superb. He hit the right notes."

Calling the speech "very moving, from the heart," Mansfield met with Mr. Ford later in the White House and assured him that Democrats would go "more than halfway in cooperating" with the new administration.

Rep. John Anderson of Illinois, third-ranking Republican in the House, said: "After a week of drama and raw emotion he brought me close to tears." He said Ford is a "man who does bring to the office what we need right now . . . sincerity, conviction . . . and a rugged determination to hold a steady course."

Rep. John McFall of California, assistant House Democratic leader, called it "a very good speech" which "set the right tone."

Rep. Julia Butler Hansen (D-Wash.) said it was "a most eloquent, moving speech; I liked its tone and spirit. He is a decent, fine man."

Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.): "A magnificent speech, a message of hope."

Sen. Frank Moss (D-Utah) pledged his "cooperation and support" to Mr. Ford and praised the President's swearing-in speech as "wholesome and reassuring."

"He declared and emphasized that honesty was the

best policy always," Moss said. "This was most welcome and heartening following the tortured months of Watergate."

Sen. Joseph Montoya (D-N.M.), who served on the Senate Watergate committee, pledged his cooperation and expressed hope that "we can close the dark pages of Watergate."

"Although the arrogance of power was the festering ground of our recent tragedy, let's make humility, understanding and cooperation the mortar and brick of a new resolve to put our country together," Montoya said.

Sen. Wallace Bennett (R-Utah), one of former President Nixon's staunchest supporters on Capitol Hill, said Mr. Ford would face the task of repairing a government "weakened by the efforts of President Nixon's detractors to drive him from office."

"President Ford can't pick up responsibility at the highest level of success, but must instead repair the

Rep. Ella Grasso (D-damages," Bennett said.

Conn.): "I was indeed touched by the deep personal concern for the nation, the closeness to our people, the straightforwardness and candor reflected by Ford's first speech to the nation as our President."

Republican National Chairman George Bush said: "President Ford's first address to the nation set a tone that bodes extremely well for America. Under his leadership, the administration will be open, hard working, practical and above all, responsive to the needs of all the people."





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President Ford spends part of his first day in the White House at work at his desk in the Oval Office.