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Awe, Sadness, Joy Grip Crowds

as Presidency Changes

By Margot Hornblower,
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A tourist from Athens, Ga., stood in Lafayette Park at noon yesterday, clutching his umbrella and Instamatic camera. "It's such an unusual day," he said. "It's sad in the morning and happy in the afternoon."

There was this mixture of emotions in the nation's capital yesterday, as the presidency of the United States passed from Richard M. Nixon to Gerald R. Ford.

The sadness of the morning centered on the man who was leaving after 5½ years in the nation's highest office. The happiness came later as a new man filled the vacuum.

The awareness of history in the making grew through the morning hours with the anticipation of the inauguration to come at noon. But first the old President was to depart, and by 10 a.m. about 1,000 people had gathered outside the White House to watch.

As he boarded the presidential helicopter, Mr. Nixon turned to the crowd and extended his arms, smiling and giving the "V" sign with both hands. His audience cheered and applauded.

The helicopter lifted from its landing pad on the White House lawn. As it soared overhead, a man held up a sign that read: "Say Goodbye, Dick—Julie, Trish and David, too!" (Julie and David Eisenhower did not accompany her parents to California.)

James Bullock, 37, said he drove up from Charlottesville "to see Nixon off; he wouldn't go off without people caring about him."

Bullock said he had voted for Mr. Nixon and felt sad about the resignation. "Everybody screws up occasionally; I'm not sure he intended to do anything wrong."

The thirst for news, always keen in Washington, reached a peak with the resignation. The Washington Post printed 160,000 extra copies of yesterday's editions in addition to the average 540,000 sold daily. New York Times sales in the area increased by 30 per cent, according to the paper's circulation office.

At the Statler-Hilton bar about 1 a.m. yesterday, four businessmen tried to buy a dozen copies of The Post's first edition from a nearby vendor. When the vendor would sell only one at a time, the men filed out individually every five minutes until they had accumulated enough "historic documents for the grandchildren."

Around the city, in homes and offices and playgrounds, small groups gathered around radios and TV sets to watch the swearing-in and hear the new President's inauguration speech.

By noon about 3,000 people had crowded into Lafayette Park and along Pennsylvania Avenue in hopes the new President would emerge. There were

housewives from the suburbs, office workers on lunch breaks, students, and tourists on vacation.

"I suggest you go home and watch it on TV," an NBC cameraman told a woman who had driven into town from Kensington. The six camera crews attracted much of the crowd's attention, since no activity could be seen inside

the wrought-iron gates of the executive mansion

"If we hang around long enough, maybe we'll see a celebrity," said Thomas Gary, a cartographer with the National Geographic Society.

Martin Lefkowitz, a Chamber of Commerce economist, sat on the curb at Lafayette Park and munched on a

chicken wing. "I usually eat lunch on the other side of the park," he said. "But today I might see history or something."

The inauguration speech stopped the lunch-hour banter as transistor radios were turned on full blast and everyone strained to hear the words of the new President. When the speech ended,

many of the listeners applauded and cheered

A few blocks away at the District Building a dozen staff members watched the new President on a portable TV set with a fuzzy picture. As Mr. Ford took the oath of office, one person said softly, "God bless you."

In the mayor's office, City Council

Chairman John Nevius watched the proceedings with five others. "He's a good man," Nevius said afterward. David Devine, a traffic engineer who listened to the speech on the radio, said Mr. Ford "seemed sincere."

In Alexandria, traffic seemed to die during the swearing-in. At City Hall, office workers clustered around television sets brought in for the occasion. Silence fell during Mr. Ford's speech and afterward there were only remarks of acceptance. "Well that's that," said one man. "Back to work."

In a dingy, red-brick building near 14th and M Streets NW, five members of the National Campaign to Impeach Nixon sat amid the clutter of anti-Nixon posters. They watched the inauguration and pondered the future of their organization.

"We'll probably have to consider that Ford will be carrying out Nixon's policies," said Mary McCall. "We'll probably have to consider what we'll do against him."

Said another: "Nixon's going, but Nixonian policies must go, too."

Frank Wills, the security guard who discovered the Watergate break-in said: "I'm not regretting anything. I'm satisfied the truth came out, that the American people woke up."

Discussion around Washington continued on whether Mr. Nixon should be indicted or given immunity, whether his resignation speech was appropriate or self-serving, and what kind of President Gerald Ford would be.

Shortly after the swearing-in ceremony, a red pickup truck drove around the White House carrying a 6-foot 8-inch papier-mache bust of President Ford and calling for his impeachment.

"Don't trade in a lemon for a used Ford," shouted a young man inside the truck. "Dump Nixon, dump Ford. Build a Workers Party."

In front of the White House, the Rev. Herbert Jones, pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church in Chicago, distributed leaflets in support of former President Nixon.

"It's a disgrace to put a man out of the White House for something as small as an executive 'quieting action,'" said Mr. Jones, whose black suit was draped with a sandwich board sign.

Most of the spectators interviewed, however, favored Mr. Nixon's resignation and said they looked forward to the new administration.

Only one person had no opinion. Neil Hopkins, 84, dressed in a baggy old suit, sat in Lafayette Park with his back to the White House. "I don't know anything about a resignation," he said. "I've spent the last 10 days in this park."



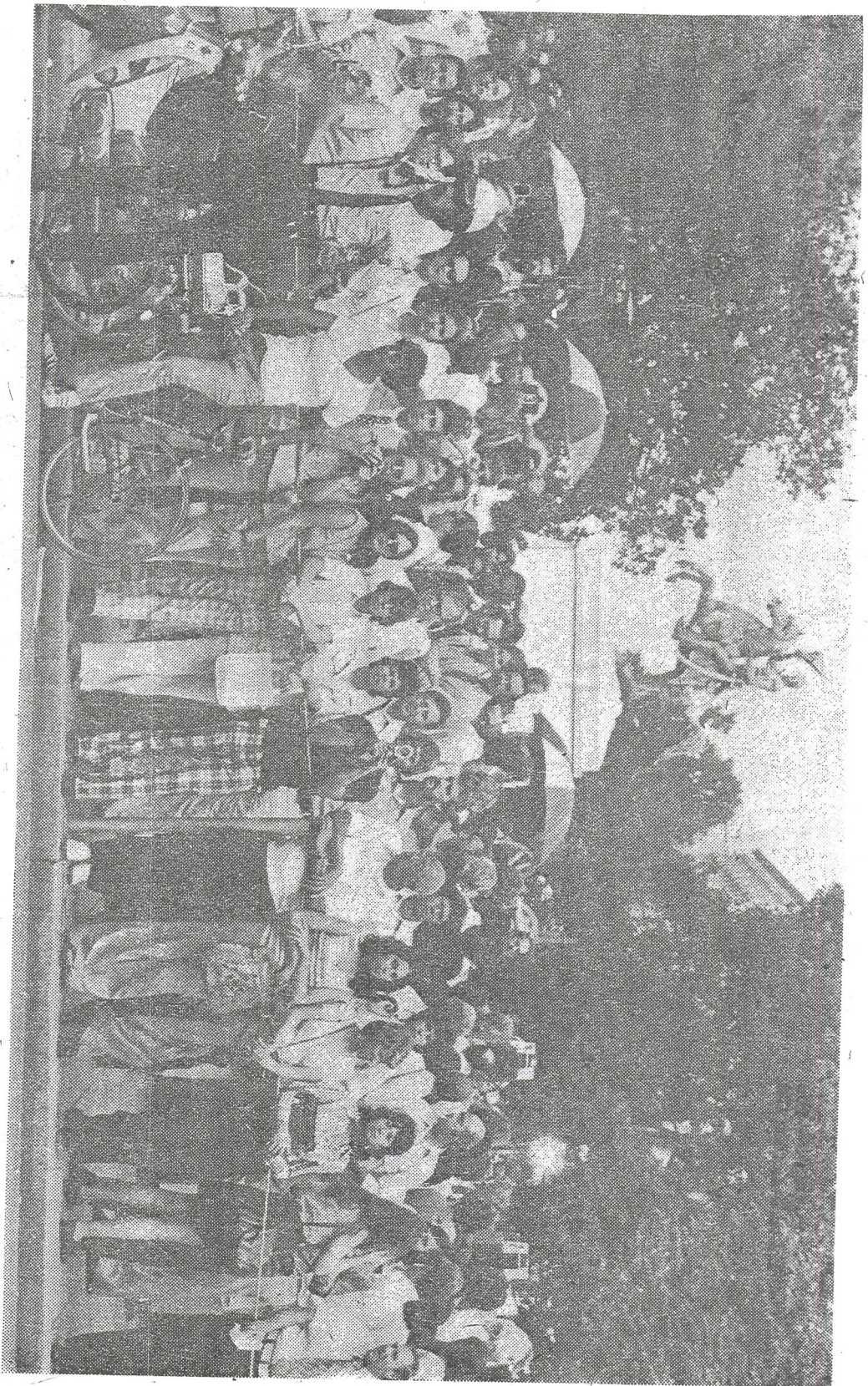
At the inauguration were, from left, members of President Ford's family: sons John, Steven, Michael, daughter-in-law Gayle, daughter Susan.

Photos by Frank Johnston—The Washington Post



Photos by Douglas Chevalier—The Washington Post

Spectators outside White House applaud as President Ford takes oath of office.



While the new President is inaugurated in the White House, a patient crowd waits expectantly across the street in Lafayette Park. Photos by Douglas Chevalier—The Washington Post