



ALSO UPI - FILED NIXON
 Photos by Frank Johnston—The Washington Post 27
 MAE 76

Mr. Nixon flashes his customary double victory sign just before entering helicopter for flight to Andrews AFB.

Ford, Nixon Single Out Their Women

AUG 10 1974

By Donnie Radcliffe
 and Jeanette Smyth

Washington Post Staff Writers

Each of them singled out the principal women in their lives in the speeches they delivered just hours apart in the East Room at the White House yesterday.

Richard Nixon, the 37th President, chose his mother, the late Hannah Milhous Nixon. Gerald Ford, the 38th President, chose his wife, Elizabeth Bloomer Ford.

"My mother was a saint," Mr. Nixon told the somber throng invited to hear his farewell.

"Yes," he continued, as near to tears as at any point in the address, "she will have no books written about her. But she was a saint."

Flanking him were his wife, Pat, his daughters, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, and their husbands, Edward Cox and David Eisenhower, all of whom had spoken out often in his defense throughout the siege of Watergate.

Mrs. Nixon, sunglasses in her hand, fought back tears and her daughters wept quietly. Seated in front of them, among the Cabinet officers and congressional representatives, was a new family friend, Rabbi Baruch Korff, founder of the National Citizens' Committee for Fairness to the President.

As Mr. Nixon spoke, he focused on faces in the crowd

and at one point stared at Korff for a long moment.

Less than three hours later, on the same dais, President Ford, just after taking the oath of office, told a bipartisan crowd of nearly 300:

"I have not subscribed to any partisan platform, I am indebted to no man and only to one woman—my dear wife—as I begin the most difficult job in the world."

Seated nearby, holding the inauguration Bible in her lap, was Mrs. Ford, who occasionally smiled during the speech.

Ford did not overlook the Nixon family in his remarks, asking the crowd to pray for them:

"May God bless and comfort his wonderful wife and daughters who love and loyalty will forever be a shining legacy to all who bear the lonely burdens of the White House."

In the front row were the Fords' daughter, Susan, 17, and their three sons, Jack, 22, Steve, 18, and Mike, 24, with his wife Gayle.

Elsewhere in the room were the President's younger brother, Thomas G. Ford, 56, and his wife, Janet, the only Grand Rapids, Mich., members of the family who could get plane reservations for the inauguration.

President and Mrs. Ford had been among those paying farewell to the Nixons earlier. In fact, the two cou-

ples emerged from the White House arm-in-arm and walked down a red carpet, flanked by an honor guard, to the presidential helicopter waiting on the South Lawn to ferry the Nixons to Andrews Air Force Base.

A small contingent of Nixon aides stood under the canopy outside the diplomatic entrance. Among them was Rose Mary Woods, Mr. Nixon's longtime personal secretary whose face was ashen as she broke into tears.

Nearby, stood Pat Nixon's press secretary, Helen McCain Smith, who reached out as if to embrace Mrs. Nixon one last time. But the former First Lady, still struggling to maintain her composure, gently brushed aside her arm.

At the helicopter, where the Fords and Nixons shook hands, Mrs. Nixon embraced Julie who, with her husband, David, remained behind. Eisenhower is attending summer classes at George Washington University law school.

Once the Nixons and the Coxes were aboard the chopper, the Fords and Eisenhowers retreated back up the red carpet to wave farewell.

In final display of determination, Mrs. Eisenhower gave a thumbs-up sign in four rapid-fire gestures.

Standing there as a quartet, Eisenhower told Mr. Ford, "From the family's

standpoint, it's a great personal relief. We wish you the best."

"I love you," Mrs. Eisenhower told the new President.

Even as the helicopter lifted into the air, the White House staff was removing Nixon's Boehm birds from the Oval Office, and replacing Nixon administration photographs in the adjoining corridor with framed and matted ones of President Ford.

The Fords chose not to spend their first night as First Family in the White House, however. After a subdued coffee-and-rolls-reception after Mr. Ford's swearing-in, his family dispersed.

Mrs. Ford and her press secretary, Nancy Howe, returned to the Fords' modest brick-and-frame rambler in Alexandria where the family planned to spend the night.

Jack, 22, who flew in from his forest ranger's job at Yellowstone National Park, will remain with his family for two weeks until he returns to Utah State University where he is a senior, majoring in forestry.

Mike and his bride of one month returned yesterday afternoon to Massachusetts where they are theological students. They had flown to Washington in the morning, having driven all day Thursday to Massachusetts from Washington. Upon arriving



Photos by Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

Mr. and Mrs. Ford accompany Mr. and Mrs. Nixon across the White House lawn to the helicopter.

Thursday night, Mike said, they found a message awaiting them from his mother.

"My mother said there was nothing definite at the

time (7 p.m.) but the way it was scheduled, the President would resign at 9 o'clock and there would be a swearing-in the next day."

He had been "surprised," he said, at his mother's control throughout the ceremony. "She is usually so emotional when family

things are concerned."

And of the Nixons' departure, he said merely that "there was really a powerful message there."