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Constitution's role in the changeover

Knight News Service

WASHINGTON—The resignation of the President, something that has never before happened in the United States, is a serious, sobering event of great historic importance.

But it is not a crisis that anyone need be alarmed about or that poses any danger to the country.

Resignation is an orderly, legal process — foreseen by the Founding Fathers as a

legitimate way of handling a problem involving the President.

It is enshrined in the Constitution — in Article II, Section 5, and in Amendment XXV, Section 1, which state that the Vice President shall take over the presidency if the chief executive resigns.

As a matter of law, therefore, and as a matter of practical fact, the stability and continuity of the government are assured.