

# TerHorst: Nixon's influence

(AP) - SEE WXP057

WASHINGTON — Jerald terHorst says aides of President Ford, whom he served for a month as press secretary, find it frustrating and even demeaning to have to work through Nixon administration machinery.

Because of the sudden shift of presidential power, terHorst says, decisions of the new administration could be translated into reality only through the organization controlled by White House chief of staff Alexander Haig.

"The Ford men naturally find that frustrating and even demeaning," terHorst writes. "And it is especially so whenever Ford moved to change a Nixon-Haig policy."

He made the comments in a new syndicated newspaper column which made its debut today.

TerHorst resigned as Ford's press secretary a week ago after the President granted a full pardon to former President Nixon.

In a separate interview with the Detroit News, terHorst said he was disturbed because he had not been

consulted by Ford prior to the pardon decision, saying he could have cautioned the President about the problems it would cause.

He said also that presidential counsel Philip W. Buchen had misled him about the pardon, which led him earlier to give false information to newsmen. Without giving details, he said he had been misled twice before by different staff members.

In his column, terHorst wrote that Haig and his associates were not used to Ford's style, which he described as open and candid and not given to being im-

pressed by lengthy memos and position papers.

"Hardest hit by Ford's style was Haig," terHorst wrote. "Nixon's preoccupation with Watergate had tremendously magnified Haig's authority in the White House and the executive branch of the government."

"For most of the final Nixon year, as Haig himself would agree, he was the acting president of the United States. With a troubled president drawing more and more within his shell, everyone in government, with the possible exception of (Secre-

## still haunting the White House

tary of State) Kissinger, was working for Al Haig."

Terhorst says that as a result of frictions, Ford is spending an inordinate amount of time soothing the feelings of his loyalists and placating Haig's sensitive

feelings — time he could better spend on substantive problems of his administration.

"Tensions between the Ford men and the Nixon holdovers would make a quantum leap in intensity

... on something dealing with Watergate," he writes. "say the disposition of Nixon tapes and documents, or even the removal of the disconnected — but still present — hidden microphones in the President's office."

"Small wonder then that some Ford men suspect Haig of unduly influencing Ford to issue his pardon to Richard Nixon the grounds that the former President's physical and emotion well-being was at stake."