

Jesuit Resigns White House Position

By John P. MacKenzie

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The Rev. John J. McLaughlin, the Jesuit priest who wrote speeches for former President Nixon and publicly praised his moral leadership, resigned his White House job yesterday.

He wrote President Ford that he is leaving Oct. 15 confident that Mr. Nixon's work "will live on in history" and applauding Mr. Ford for acts of "graciousness" toward the Nixon staff holdovers.

"Under your presidency, I am confident, the republic will prosper," McLaughlin said. "You have plowed straight and deep, and the

people trust your leadership."

Press secretary Ron Nessen, fielding questions about the status of the old Nixon staff, said several Nixon aides have left but others will continue on the White House payroll while they look for jobs or until Mr. Nixon gets his appropriation and can hire some of them for his personal staff.

President Ford is on record that "it is not in his nature to toss people out on the street," Nessen said. "He does not want anybody shoved out of this building until they have an adequate opportunity to find careers for themselves."

Nessen said this policy should answer those who ques-

tion whether Nixon holdovers should be kept on the payroll doing nothing at the same time President Ford is calling on citizens to tighten their belts in the fights against inflation.

Asked whether Mr. Ford accepted Father McLaughlin's resignation with regret, Nessen said that the President probably would respond to the letter, although the McLaughlin appointment was not a presidential one. He has been on the press secretary's payroll.

Action on other holdovers will be up to their immediate superiors and not President Ford, Nessen added.

Nessen's announcements in-

cluded the first public disclosure of the salary Father McLaughlin has been receiving. It is in the \$32,000-to-\$34,000 range, he said.

Nessen said he had been told that former White House communications director Ken W. Clawson had vacated his former office. He confirmed that Clawson had drawn government per diem expenses during a trip to San Clemente but remained on the press secretary's payroll with no assignment.

Mr. Ford's only announced appointments for the day were meetings with his new staff chief, Donald Rumsfeld, and his Economic Policy Board. He accepted from Senate leaders Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) a Senate resolution wishing Mrs. Ford a speedy recovery from her cancer operation.

He also planned to visit Mrs. Ford at Bethesda Naval Hospital after a private dinner with a few congressional friends.