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The News-Sentinel

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NIXON RESIGNATION CERTAIN

Bulletin

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Richard M. Nixon told Gerald R. Ford today that he is resigning as the 37th President of the United States, and Ford will be sworn in as the new President Friday at 5 p.m. EST, UPI learned.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard M. Nixon, his 2,000-day presidency shredded by scandal, told Vice President Gerald R. Ford today he is resigning as President of the United States, a White House aide said.

House Republican Leader John J. Rhodes confirmed in an interview that

the President would resign, but later said he had been misunderstood.

Nixon arranged to address the nation at 8 p.m. EST.

A House Democratic leader said he was told that Nixon's resignation would go to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger Friday, and that Ford would be sworn in later in the day as 38th President.

Rep. John McFall, D-Calif., the House Democratic whip, said he got that information from Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill.

In a brief interview, Rhodes was asked about reports that the President would resign, and said they were correct. He later issued a statement denying that he

had said the President planned to announce his resignation tonight.

In that statement, Rhodes said only that it was his impression the President would make a definitive statement "that will leave no doubt in the minds of the American people as to the ultimate outcome of this tragic period which the country has endured."

However, an aide to Rhodes said that the original account of the Arizona congressman's information on resignation was correct.

Meanwhile, Ford cancelled a 12-day trip through the West, thus heightening the indications that a transition of power was imminent.

Other congressional sources said the

resignation would be effective at noon Friday.

Nixon spent an hour and 10 minutes with Ford, and a White House aide said the President told Ford then of his decision to resign.

The President then summoned Republican and Democratic leaders of Congress to the White House for an early evening meeting.

After days of intense speculation over Nixon's course in the face of certain House impeachment, the only question seemed to be the hour at which the President's decision would be executed.

Rhodes said Nixon would resign by late afternoon. The formal instrument of resignation would go to Kissinger as secretary of state.

No man has ever resigned from the presidency.

But since Nixon's Monday admission that he concealed Watergate evidence from House impeachment investigators, the public and his own lawyers, the pressure has mounted for the President to quit.

A haggard Ronald L. Ziegler, his voice choked with emotion, made only a brief announcement on the day's plans, and did not confirm the resignation.

Ziegler said it was a difficult time, then announced:

"The President of the United States will meet with various members of the

bipartisan leadership of Congress here at the White House early this evening.

"Tonight at 8 o'clock, the President of the United States will address the people of the United States by radio and television from the Oval Office."

A spokesman for Ford said the vice president would refrain from public comment until the President himself announced his action.

The ultimate decision apparently was made in the middle of the night in the solitude of the first family's living quarters. A reliable source said Kissinger was instrumental in convincing Nixon his resignation was necessary in the national interest.

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After Meeting With President

Amid persistent reports that he planned to resign, President Nixon conferred late Wednesday with leading Republicans: (from left) Sen. Hugh

Scott, R-Pa., Senate GOP leader; Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., and Rep. John Rhodes, R-Ariz., House GOP leader. (AP Wirephoto)

Ford Delaying Planned Trip

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Gerald R. Ford canceled a 12-day political trip today amid speculation he will be sworn in Friday as the nation's 38th President.

Cancellation of the trip was announced by Ford's press secretary, Paul Milich.

The vice president met with President Nixon for 70 minutes today, apparently to learn of the President's decision to resign.

Ford became vice president on Dec. 6, 1973. He succeeded Spiro T. Agnew who resigned Oct. 10, 1973, after pleading no contest to a charge of evading federal income taxes.

Asked what kind of reading the vice president's office might have on current situation, the spokesman replied, "I

hear we're going on the trip, but we're just going a little later."

Before the announcement of the delay, Ford press secretary Paul Milich said plans for the trip were unchanged. But other sources indicated at least part of the itinerary could be scrubbed at a moment's notice.

Also on Ford's schedule today was the presentation of posthumous medals to relatives of seven military servicemen at ceremonies at Blair House, located across the street from the White House.

House Republican Leader John J. Rhodes, who was among three congressional leaders to meet with President Nixon Wednesday, earlier canceled plans to accompany Ford to the election.

A spokesman for Rhodes said the Arizona Republican wanted to remain in the nation's capital so he could manage a campaign finance bill on the House floor, legislation that had been scheduled for floor action for several weeks.

Ford, like members of his staff, has been increasingly tight-lipped about impeachment, travel plans or anything else since the President revealed earlier this week that he withheld evidence from the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry.

Ford declined to talk to reporters Wednesday as he arrived and left various meetings on Capitol Hill.

One of the meetings was with Rhodes and Rep. Albert H. Rees, R-Minn. Rhodes described this as a regular weekly get-together of old friends who met for prayer sessions.

Quiet said impeachment and the President's situation was discussed, but declined to elaborate.

Ford also met with President Nixon's chief of staff, Alexander M. Haig Jr., and "exchanged views on the current situation," said Milich. He refused further comment on the substance of the talk but said Haig requested the meeting that took place in Ford's Executive Office Building office.

Later, Ford met for approximately 10 minutes with Senate Assistant Minority Leader Robert P. Griffin, the sole member of the Senate GOP leadership who has publicly called for the President's resignation.

No one would divulge the nature of that conversation.

Nixon Escape Routes Considered

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon on faces possible criminal prosecution should he resign or be removed from office, but several escape routes may be open to him.

Congress or special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski could take steps to save Nixon from a criminal trial. So could Vice President Gerald R. Ford, if he succeeds to the presidency.

Some legal experts believe Nixon could even pardon himself of all crimes before leaving office, but that is viewed as only a remote possibility.

Most constitutional scholars concede that a president cannot be indicted while in office, although it is not an undisputed legal principle.

The Watergate grand jury ducked the issue when it chose to name Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate cover-up.

Nixon was accused as a co-conspirator in the plot to block the original Watergate investigation and conceal the White House involvement in the break-in at Democratic national headquarters June 17, 1972.

Monday, he admitted ordering the investigation halted for political reasons and concealing the information from his lawyers and the House Judiciary Committee.

Some members of Congress say Nixon, in effect, confessed to obstructing justice, a crime carrying a maximum pen-

alty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Multiple counts and related charges would increase the potential penalties.

If Nixon resigns, he would be vulnerable to an indictment.

If he were convicted in an impeachment trial, he would be removed from office and similarly vulnerable because the Constitution states that "the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment according to law."

To avoid that fate, Nixon could attempt to strike a deal with Jaworski. The President could offer to resign in exchange for the prosecutor's promise not to bring criminal charges. But the deal would not necessarily bind a grand jury.

The prosecutor's office refuses to comment on the possibility of plea bargaining. Atty. Gen. William B. Saxbe said on Wednesday he is not aware of any ongoing negotiations. Nixon's chief attorney, James D. St. Clair, said he is "not prepared to discuss it."

Congress also could act to save Nixon from criminal charges.

Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass., reportedly was seeking Democratic support for a resolution declaring "it is the sense of the Congress" that if Nixon should resign, no federal or state officer "should bring, conduct, or continue criminal or civil processes against him."

The resolution would not have the force of law.

Reading Guide table with categories like Queasy Visitors, Accent Pages, and According to Guinness.

Briefing Precedes Talk

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler announced today that President Nixon was to meet today with Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress before making a television-radio address to the nation at 8 p.m. EST on his decision to resign.

Looking haggard and choked with emotion, Ziegler did not say the President was resigning. But another White House aide said that indeed was the case.

The press secretary, after saying this has been "a difficult time," added:

"The President of the United States will meet various members of the bipartisan leadership of Congress here at the White House early this evening.

"Tonight at 8 o'clock the President of the United States will address the people of the United States by radio and television from the Oval Office."

Ziegler then turned abruptly from the

rostrum in the White House press center, leaving before any of the several hundred reporters present could ask questions.

Ziegler's announcement came several minutes after Nixon completed a private conference with Vice President Gerald R. Ford that lasted for 70 minutes.

GOP Chief Praises Nixon 'Courage'

By HORTENSE MYERS INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — The official Indiana Republican position to the expected resignation of President Nixon emerged today with a formal statement by GOP state chairman Thomas S. Milligan praising the President for his "courage and selflessness" and thanking him for past service to the nation.

"I have just learned that Richard M. Nixon has made known his plans to become the first President in the history of

the nation to resign from its highest office," Milligan said. "The two-year agony of Watergate has diverted our attention from serious problems which confront the American people. Watergate in all its aspects seriously eroded the ability of Mr. Nixon to govern."

"As an elected public official, Mr. Nixon has advanced the interests of the nation, particularly in terms of America's role in world affairs," Milligan said.



A Real Ham

"Pork Chop," a five-week-old pet pig nibbles on the ear of Jamie Wolfe, 5, of Huntington, W. Va., whose father, Kim, a policeman, has taken a lot of ribbing from fellow officers for owning a pig. (AP Wirephoto)

HE'S A PET PIG This Pork Chop Isn't for the Frying Pan

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. (AP) — Every night is "Pork Chop" night at the home of Liz and Kim Wolfe.

Not for the frying pan. For the bathtub.

That's where Pork Chop, the five-week-old piglet that shares a second-floor apartment with the Wolfes and their two sons, beds down when it's time to hit the hay.

Pork Chop apparently has no qualms about living with a bunch of Wolfes. "We had a couple of pigs out at my husband's parents' farm, and when one of them had a litter, Pork Chop was in it.

She was hurt when she was born and my husband brought her home that first night," said Mrs. Wolfe, whose husband is a recruit with the Huntington Police Department.

The piglet, bottle fed and house broken, soon won over the Wolfes.

"I've always had dogs, but I like Pork Chop better than any pet I ever had," said Mrs. Wolfe. "And the boys just love her."

Pork Chop sleeps in the bathtub. "She gives me a nudge and then heads for the tub when she's sleepy," said Mrs. Wolfe. "She's really smart."

Among Pork Chop's favorite pastimes are rooting among the throw rugs and rough-housing with the children.

"She'll give Kim and I a playful nip now and then, but she's never touched the kids," Mrs. Wolfe said. "And you ought to see the way people react when we take her for a walk."

Because of the logistics of keeping a pig in a second-floor apartment, it won't be long before Pork Chop goes back to the farm. But a pork chop she'll never be.

"Why, I couldn't stand that," Mrs. Wolfe declared. "It would be like eating one of the kids."

'Good Morning'

Vice-President Gerald Ford greets photographers as he leaves his home early this morning. Ford canceled a 12-day trip in the Western U.S. to meet with President Nixon. (AP Wirephoto)

News Briefs

Briton Dies in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A member of a British television crew was killed by a land mine and four other foreign newsmen and photographers were wounded today as a press convoy entered the town of Lajthos in northern Cyprus, newsmen who were in the convoy said.

A colleague said Ted Stoddard, a soundman for the British Broadcasting Corp., was killed when he stepped on the mine after getting out of the lead car in the four-car convoy.

N.Y. Police Indicted

NEW YORK (UPI) — Special prosecutors announced today 10 New York police sergeants have been indicted on charges of conspiracy, extortion, bribery and perjury.

A spokesman for special state prosecutor Maurice Neffjan, appointed to clean up corruption in New York City, said the indictments were handed up by a special grand jury in the borough of Queens.

Canadian Sea Strike

MONTREAL (UPI) — More than 1,200 marine engineers and deck officers on Canada's Great Lakes fleet went on strike today in two separate walkouts that could paralyze inland shipping for at least two weeks.

Some 700 members of the Canadian Marine Officers Union began walking off their jobs at 7 a.m. EST as their slips reached port.

Shake-up In Canada

OTTAWA, Ont. (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau today ordered a major shake-up of his cabinet and named Privy Council President Allan MacEachen as the country's new foreign minister.

MacEachen takes over from Mitchell Sharp, who was named to MacEachen's old job.

The shake-up reduced the cabinet from 31 to 29 members. Five former members were dropped and nine ministers were shifted or given added responsibilities.

There was no immediate indication that the change in the Foreign Ministry involved any shift in Canadian foreign policy toward the United States or other countries.

Arms Race Predicted

By The Associated Press Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin says that Syria, Iraq and perhaps even Jordan might surpass Egypt in an "unparalleled arms race" among the Arab nations. For 26 years Israel has regarded Egypt its principal enemy, but in recent weeks Rabin and Israeli military leaders have warned of a vast Arab military buildup, primarily in Syria.