

Going over my experiences in the vice-presidency and have seen him many times during his vice presidency and he has not offered me any position and I think to answer the question of what I'd do is kind of foolish ~~to~~ until you hear or not he's going to offer one. I've enjoyed being in the Senate and I think that speaks for itself.

I wouldn't be surprised, he comes from the midwest, I think he has a greater appreciation of some of the problems of rural America than some people might have and I think he will listen to leaders in Congress but not just leaders but members of Congress. Keep in mind that this man has had many years since 1949 experience in the House of Representatives. That leaves a definite impact or imprint upon one's character and upon your attitude and way of doing things. So I feel at least there will be an open mind there. No, I don't think I should, this is one of the old games down here in Washington, everytime there's a change, people start speculating who else is going to come aboard. Mr. Ford will have the job of not only nominating a vice president under the 25th amendment, a nomination to the Congress but he will also have to take a look at his cabinet. And I hope that Mr. Ford will have his own cabinet and men who are responsible to him and have a loyalty to him. This is not to say that current cabinet members are not able but I believe the country now wants a sort of clean sweep, so to speak. A new look, new faces in many places. Not in the instance of ^{Sec.} ~~Henry~~ Kissinger, as I've said, because I think he's exordinarily able and a national asset we desperately need at this time. But I've always felt that one of the mistakes Lyndon Johnson possibly made was that

he never really got around to appointing his own cabinet. He took the Kennedy cabinet, even though these were extremely able men but they were people originally appointed by another President. And politics is a very human relationship and I would hope that this relationship would be understood and I think it will by Mr. Ford. Doesn't need to be in a hurry, it will take its time.

I've always been proud of the political affiliation ~~XXXXXX~~ that I have, just as you're proud of being a Republican, I'm proud of being a Democrat. But when it comes to the country and the serious problems that afflict our country, particularly in times like these~~x~~ having gone through these long months of what we call the Watergate espoide. ~~IX~~ I think we need to bind up the wounds, I think we need to put the country first and I think that party becomes very secondary here. And as I said earlier ~~IX~~ we ^{may} have disagreements, those are honest disagreements among honest and reparable men and women. ~~IXX~~ But it is a moment of history, I want to say that it is maybe one of the great moments of American history filled both with tragedy and with hope.

I thought it was one of the finer hours for the President, his speech was very high-level important speech. The series of events is a story of both tragedy and hope. A personal tragedy for the President and a new hope for the nation. I guess that one can say the long-term meaning of today's events is that our Constitutional system of representative government is durable and

responsive. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ For those who have any doubt our system, let me just say that democracy works.

I think the nation needed this decision. And quite obviously the President knew that in the impeachment process he did not have the votes in the Congress. He was told this by his own Republican leaders. I think its important to note as I've said in a statement that this unprecedented event has occurred not with disorder or disunity or with violence, but with rigorous devotion to the processes of law mandated by our Constitution. Now, there's a new day and a new President and this new President and the Congress have the responsibility of governing and the task of rebuilding faith and confidence in our political institutions. I'm going to pledge my full cooperation in achieving these goals. We've got things to tend to, duties to perform and the new President will need help and cooperation and time to get his administration organized and his program outlined. I will do my best to help him gain that time.

I'm confident that the whole nation wants to bind up the wounds and have a coming together, the country is weary and tired of the trauma and tension of these last months. Mr. Ford will be the beneficiary of a great desire ~~xxxxxx~~ on the part of the American people to settle down and get on with the job of taking of our problems. As to the Congress, he comes from the Congress, ke knows the Congress. He has many friends in the Congress and I'm one of them. This doesn't mean there'll be agreement on all items, he knows that. We the people in public life can disagree without being disagreeable.

And can have our differences. So I happen to think that he will do well with the Congress. There's a quality of fairness here wanting to give the man the time to get his administration organized, the time to get his program outlined and I've always believed that a new president is entitled to that consideration. I treated Mr. Nixon that way after '68.

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I don't think the American people have any desire to punish and yet there surely is the question of equal justice under the law. I would have people keep in mind, however, that President Nixon has suffered a unique, very unusual form of punishment that brings with it great pain and personal agony -- namely having to resign from the highest office in the land. This whole matter of immunity ought to be studied with care and with time -- no need to hurry.

Read statement to Winona, Minnesota.

I don't think there's any possibility of that because he will resign and with resignation he cannot be impeached. You can only impeach a sitting president or vice president or official and I don't ~~believed~~ believe the House of Representatives will vote a bill of impeachment after the President has resigned and if the House won't act, the Senate can't act. I noted that Al Queen was mentioned as one of them. But I think this is what we call the name game in Washington. There's Nelson Rockefeller, Howard Baker and Mr. Richardson -- a host of people.

I think one of the important decisions Mr. Ford will have to make is who will be the vice president. Who will he nominate to be the vice president because he's going to need a man that can help him with the duties of office and someone that will cooperate and be loyal and yet someone that is experienced and someone that will be well accepted by the country. Above all what you need in the vice president is someone who ~~if~~ if something goes wrong has the qualities and the ability ~~to~~ to take on the duties of the Presidency. That's more important than where he lives or his age, what's most important is his experience and ~~character~~ character. I think there's a feeling of relief in Washington which I believe is a pretty good mere of the country. The country has gone through a long ordeal in this long investigation, charges and countercharges and indictments and convictions. The whole nation has been tired and weary of it and knows that there has to be something done to get things straightened out and tend to the many problems that confront our country. I said to a friend tonight, "this evening is one of tragedy and yet one of hope." A personal tragedy for Mr. Nixon and his family and it's been a tragedy for our government and our country for a long time. Now there's a chance, there's some light, some hope. If we just pull ourselves together now and Mr. Ford will reach out to the American people, I think we can start to move.

Well, my feeling is first of all, the President didn't ask for it ~~from~~ from what I understand or none of his aides. Secondly, I doubt if the Congress is ready for it. This sort of thing is so far-~~reaching~~ reaching that it will require time and very careful thought because

its fought with all kinds of dangers. So I think its just a little early to make any judgment. Now the President, obviously^{people} are going to say if there if wrongdoing and that has to be proven. One of the things Mr. Nixon's resignation did, it does not permit the process of impeachment to take place. So there's no way to say the charges have been proven. So when you get to talking about immunity you're really got something very complicated in light of the circumstances. Well I am sure there aren't very many people who want to prosecute a president or former president. But that doesn't mean that this couldn't happen. There's always punishment for wrongdoing but in this instance I think~~the~~ the most painful punishment has been the necessity of resignation, the personal tragedy that has come to the man and his family. But again, I'm just not prepared to give you a final answer on immunity because it's so filled with complexity. And I advised a couple of my colleagues that were talking this to take their time, not to hurry it. The President has not asked for it, had been apparently no arrangements made with the special prosecutor. And I didn't think that we in Congress should rush into this, that it should be something thought out with great care. Well I didn't expect that he would but since he was making his final statement as a public official that he would place it on the highest ground that he could and he did that. He did make a fine statement. I think it was his best hour and his best speech. He did not admit to wrongdoing, he admitted to error.

Tonight was a hour of both tragedy and hope. Personal tragedy for the President and his family, having to resign under these circumstances. And we've gone through some tragic moments in our

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But with the President's resignation, the interest of the nation has been served. We'll now have a new President, he has a tremendous responsibility, ~~xxx~~ he will need the cooperation of the American people and the Congress. I thought that Vice President's Ford's comments tonight were constructive and not at all contentious, that he was appealing for cooperation. He'll get it from me. Right now the country needs to bind~~x~~ up its wounds. I didn't expect that the President would admit any guilt. He did say he made mistakes, which I think is quite obvious. But the record is there, the public record is there in the judiciary committee, the public record is there in the investigative reporting, in the Erving committee. By the President not admitting to any wrongdoing doesn't prove that there was none.

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As you know, President Ford came to the Congress the same year that I did in 1949. We were in the 81st Congress. Jerry and his wife Betty are people that Muriel and ~~xxxx~~ I know. I've always had a good personal relationship with Mr. Ford and since he's become vice president, a much closer relationship. I spent a good deal of time with him just prior to his becoming vice president before his confirmation and immediately afterwards. Sharing with him some of my experiences in that office. Mr. Ford, politically is moderate-conserative, I'd say. No, I wouldn't call him a hard-liner but he's been a Republican party regular. I think that's fair to say. I don't hold that against him.

He's an experienced man in politics, that's very important. He isn't a loner like President Nixon. And the people he knows are essentially political people. I think that people forget that Mr. Nixon was never very close to political associates, they were personal associates. Gerry Ford knows the workings of the Congress, he knows there is no way you can govern this country without the cooperation of the Congress and the Presidency. We 'll have our arguments I'm sure over economic and social policy and those will be legitimate arguments -- that's what we ought to have. I think the Congress is like the rest of the country, breathing a sigh of relief. We've had such a agonizing period here. The country is weary and terribly tired of all this trouble called Watergate. The people know that the President and many of his cabinet have not been able to attend to the duties of government. Now there's a chance to get back to governing the country, to binding up the wounds, to have an ~~era~~ era of good feeling. And that's what we need desperately now. I think he's confident in his ability to handle the job, you know, he's been around this town a long time -- 25 years. He's a House member and believe it or not, while we're only a few hundred ^{yards} ~~xxxxx~~ separated it's like you're in two separate countries most of the time. As you know in talking to members of the house, this is the real fact of political life down here. But I always found him friendly, not aloof, not cold. He's a good down to earth politician, like to shake hands, a friendly word.

I don't recall any -- you know -- at some dinners we have been at together, press club together, where we razeed each other a little bit. But that is what some of us like about politics. This is what we have been missing. It has been a sad city, no joy in politics down here for a long time. Mr. Nixon's politics did not permit that. Yes...I think it did... Yes...and the ~~WKSIX~~ closed circle. Jerry Ford will reach out. But when you get to be President you change. I don't know aht it will do yfor him. Thebiggest job the Pres. has is how he keeps in touch with the people he used to know. This is good Washington journalism. There has hever been a time they didn't have a list. They had a list in 1964 ~~XHXSEXSXSHXSHX~~ as long as Sears-Roebuck catalog that I was supposed to be on. In 1968 they had another list that I was supposed to be looking at. I feel that the biggest assignment that Mr. Ford has is the nomination of his ~~WKSIX~~ ^{in the immediate future is the selection of} the selection for Vice President. That is going to be critical. He needs a man ~~EMXX~~ of experience and yet one that will cooperate. But I want to underscore the two words, character and experience. This business of government is not made for amateurs. It needs people of integrity and character. Bye.



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