

*Friday, August 9, 1974*

*From Washington.....*

*From San Clemente.....*

*From West Branch, Iowa...*

*this is Lowell Thomas. Good Evening Everybody.*

*As I'm sure you all know by now, for the fourth time in eleven years the United States tonight has a new President Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr. sixty-one-year-old Michigan lawyer - stood in the East Room of the White House at noon today as Chief Justice Warren Burger administered the oath of office as thirty-eighth President of the United States. Then, before national TV and a room crowded with family - friends, relatives, Senators and Congressmen - the New President delivered a brief address saying: "This is not an inaugural address - not a fireside chat - nor a campaign speech - it's just a little straight talk among friends, and I intend it to be the first of many." He went on to say: "Our long national nightmare is over - our Constitution works*

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*and our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men." Then he went on to promise an administration of openness and candor - an uninterrupted, sincere search for world peace and solution of problems here at home. At one point, President Ford reminded his nationwide audience - "I am acutely aware you have not elected me President with your ballots - so I ask you to confirm me as President with your prayers."*

*The speech lasted nine minutes - immediately afterwards he met briefly with congressional leaders of both parties - arranging to appear before a joint session of Congress at nine o'clock next Monday evening.*

*Even as the new President was taking the oath - former President Nixon was airborne - on his way to California to resume the life of a private citizen. His expected decision to resign was announced last evening before perhaps the biggest television audience in history*

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- and today only the goodbyes were left. At mid-morning Mr. Nixon - still the President - delivered an emotional farewell to his cabinet and White House staff. Flanked by members of his family he said - "Sure we've done some things wrong and the top man always takes the responsibility - and I've never ducked it." We leave with high hopes, in good spirit - with deep humility - and with much greatfulness in our hearts.

Then he and his family boarded a helicopter on the White House lawn for the flight to Andrews base where the Air Force jet - Spirit of Seventy-Six was waiting. It was only after the plane had taken off that his letter of resignation was delivered to Secretary of State Kissinger, shortly before noon. It simply read: "I hereby resign the office of President of the United States."

President Ford says Foreign Policy, and inflation will be his top priorities - and, he'll nominate a new Vice

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President within a week to ten days. Senate G O P leader Hugh Scott today endorsed former New York Governor Rockefeller for the post. But, Conservative Senators are said to be supporting Barry Goldwater. Henry Kissinger stays on as Secretary of State and so do other members of the Nixon cabinet - for the present at least.

The new White House press secretary is Jerry terHorst of the Detroit News who has known the new President for twenty-five years - all the years he spent as a house member.

Until the Nixon White House belongings are moved out, the new President, his wife Betty and their four children will continue to live in their home in nearby Alexandria, Virginia.

And late today, Mr. Nixon arrived in San Clemente - there receiving a tumultuous welcome from an Airport crowd of five thousand who wept, cheered, and sang

*God Bless America. The former President broke into smiles as he emerged from the plane saying: "I'm going to continue to work for peace, and prosperity for this country." Will the former President face possible future prosecution because of Watergate?*

*In San Clemente, Presbyterian minister Joseph Stephens reminded those who hasten to stand in judgment of others - those who cast the first stone.*

## CONNOLLY

*Former Treasury Secretary John Connolly pleaded innocent today to all charges of accepting a ten thousand ~~dollars~~ dollar bribe in return for ~~use~~ using his influence to get higher federal price supports for raw milk. At the arraignment in Washington, Federal Judge George Hart granted Connolly's lawyer - Edward Bennett Williams - forty-five days to file motions, after which time a trial date will be set.*

# RAIN

The parched midlands were drenched with

rain today <sup>so day</sup> ~~is~~ ending the <sup>^</sup>drought, of ~~more than thirty~~

~~days.~~ It's Too late to save the corn crop - but bringing

~~there's~~ hope for <sup>lesser crops</sup> ~~others~~ <sup>^</sup>

Now there's need -

HOOVER - ONE HUNDRED

Oh yes and we are <sup>re</sup>minded that one hundred  
years <sup>ago</sup> tomorrow one of our great Presidents was born,  
in an exceedingly modest cottage at West Branch,  
Iowa -- August tenth - Eighteen Seventy Four. Herbert  
Hoover who organized relief during World War One,  
help<sup>ed</sup> ~~ing~~ one hundred and twenty thousand stranded  
Americans return home <sup>safely</sup> and in the succeeding years  
saved ~~saved~~ millions from starvation, in war ravaged  
lands. As his biographer ~~John~~ Gene Lyons said of  
him: "A great humanitarian; a man of unquestionable  
personal integrity."

This is LT for CBS saying a-l-u-Mon.