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FIRST LINE REPORT - WTOP
With Bob Schieffer
August 12, 1974

BOB SCHIEFFER: Gerald Ford of Michigan, the 38th President of the United States of America, will address a Joint Session of the Congress tonight at 9 p.m. Eastern Time. He came to the Presidency under the most unusual of circumstances, and he has been President for only a few days now, but it is becoming more and more apparent that we are in for some changes. A few thoughts on that after this message.

(Announcement)

BOB SCHIEFFER: Every man brings his own personal style to the Presidency, and from what we do know so far, the Gerald Ford style is going to be one of easy informality. From what we have seen so far, it won't be much like the style of Richard Nixon, a very formal man who often seemed ill at ease around strangers, especially when reporters and photographers were present.

Mr. Ford and Mr. Nixon may well be the only two people in the world who like to put catsup on cottage cheese, but there the similarity and taste and style seems to end. Where Mr. Nixon favored dark suits and conservative ties, Mr. Ford showed up at Saturday's Cabinet meeting wearing a plaid number that would have pleased a race track tout.

Except for the time when he and his friend Charles Bebe Rebozo posed in matching sport shirts, Mr. Nixon was seldom seen without a tie. Mr. Ford, on the other hand, allowed the photographers to take his picture last night as he took a swim in the family pool in his backyard in Alexandria, Virginia. He was wearing his bathrobe when he emerged from the house, and he didn't pause for long when he stepped out of it and plunged into the pool. He just laughed when reporters asked him to pose for a moment in his swim trunks. "Why, no," he said, "this is not a burlesque show."

Where Mr. Nixon has had his well-publicized differences with the press, Mr. Ford has generally enjoyed good relations with reporters as he served in the House of Representatives and later as he became Vice President. It didn't even seem to fluster him the other day when a lensman snapped his picture as he blew his nose.

He seems to be making a real effort to continue the good relations. His new Press Secretary, Jerald terHorst, was a highly respected Washington newsman until last week when Mr. Ford asked him to join the Administration. The new President also told his Cabinet Saturday he wanted affirmative relations with the press and even his neighbors seem to be taking that advice to heart.

Mr. Ford still lives at his home in Alexandria, Virginia, and when reporters began camping on the lawn last week, Mr. Ford's neighbors across the street set up a temporary press room in their garage. They have been furnishing the newsmen ice water, cold drinks and from time to time in the evening a pitcher of martinis.

When Mr. Ford dropped by the White House press room Friday afternoon to introduce his new Press Secretary and to joke a bit with the reporters, it was all so different that one newsman said, "You know, it seems like he has been President two years." It had been only three hours earlier, of course, that Mr. Nixon's press spokesman, Ronald Ziegler, had issued his final pronouncement to the White House press. "You will have to move back," he said, as Mr. Nixon boarded the helicopter that was to take him away from the White House for the last time as President.

But as Jack Germond of the Washington Star-News concluded, the greatest contrast in style may have come in the two speeches that the two men made Friday. Mr. Nixon left town talking on a theme that he has touched on many times over the years, enemies. "Remember that others may hate you," he told his staff. "Those who hate you don't win unless you hate them and then you destroy yourself."

Mr. Ford began his Presidency by saying that he had many adversaries over the years in Congress. But he said he didn't think he had a single enemy there. It was said of another President that nothing so became him in the Presidency as his leaving of it. Of Mr. Nixon it might be said that nothing was so typical of his Presidency as his leaving of it.

We don't know how Mr. Ford will leave. But he does seem off to a good start. For one thing it is already apparent that he enjoys the work and that is usually the first step toward success.

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FIRST LINE REPORT - WTOP
With Dan Rather
August 14, 1974

DAN RATHER: The Vice Presidential choice. It could come at any time now. It may be a matter of hours, although the expectation of White House aides is that it is still a matter of days. Sometime this week, probably, they say, but not likely today.

The names mentioned most often: Nelson Rockefeller, former New York Governor; and George Bush, former Texas Congressman, and later United Nations Ambassador. Next to those, the names mentioned most often, Howard Baker, the Tennessee Senator; and Barry Goldwater of Arizona.

Behind them a pack of names considered to be longshots, but possible, nonetheless. Iowa Governor Robert Ray; Washington State Governor Dan Evans; NATO Ambassador, Donald Rumsfeld; William Scranton, the former Pennsylvania Governor; Senator James Buckley of New York, and Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts.

Melvin Laird, the former Defense Secretary and one time Wisconsin Congressman, is understood to have taken himself out of the running. Laird will be a power in the Ford White House, but not apparently as Vice President.

There is every indication that although President Ford may have a fair idea of who he would like to name, he has not made up his mind. What appears to have happened is that Rockefeller jumped off to an early lead.

He is the choice of Laird and of Pennsylvania's Senator Hugh Scott, but then ranking members of the Republican Party's right-wing began complaining that Rockefeller would be an unfair choice. He didn't support Goldwater in 1964, remember.

Rock-ribbed Republican conservatives have been saying in effect, okay, President Ford, if you can't give the Vice Presidency now to Goldwater, at least don't give it to Rockefeller, and they have been rallying behind possible compromise choices such as Bush and Baker.

The thinking of liberal Republicans is Ford needs to broaden his base. He is conservative. He will do well in the Midwest, West and South in 1976. What the party needs is help in the industrial Northeast. That is what Rockefeller would provide.

Also, it is argued, Ford's short suits are in knowing about urban problems, the economy and foreign affairs, plus lack of trust among blacks. Rockefeller, so the liberal Republican line goes, would give strength in all of those categories. And so it goes.

Meanwhile, the new President meets today and tomorrow with leaders from among the Nation's mayors, county government leaders and Governors and he also meets today with Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi.

All the while, he still is trying to decide just how much to change Nixon economic policy and what changes precisely need to be made. He apparently is willing to give the Cost of Living Council, which he is reviving, a more bipartisan flavor and is apparently willing to give Congress a voice in its make-up. The role of the new Cost of Living Council will be to monitor prices and wages, let the President know when a price or wage increase appears out of line.

President Ford already is warning the Nation's business leaders that he will give his personal attention to price rises he considers inflationary. His criticism of a General Motors price increase of near 10 percent was not, says his News Secretary, any isolated case.

All of this, of course, paves the way for President Ford to come down hard later, if he deems it necessary, on unions asking for wage increases. Mr. Ford, as a Member of Congress, was not considered a friend of organized labor. Union leaders are supporting him in these, the early days of his Presidency, but making it clear they won't take, without a whimper, anything even remotely smacking of favoritism to big business and industry, which is one of their complaints about President Nixon.

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FIRST LINE REPORT
Marvin Kalb
August 15, 1974

MARVIN KALB: Cypress boils, NATO crumbles, plain baloney, the spokesman says, the United States is not tilting towards anyone. All of this in one minute.

(Announcement)

MARVIN KALB: It was, we are told, last Saturday when the United States first learned that Turkey might take military action against Cypress. Secretary of State Kissinger quickly called the Turkish Prime Minister urging him to give diplomacy more of a chance to solve the crisis.

Everyone agrees, Kissinger says, that the Turkish Cypriots ought to have an autonomous region. The question is where, how large a region, what would it be called, and where would it be.

On Sunday there was a follow-up exchange of telegrams, proposals, counter proposals, among the Greeks, the Turks, the Cypriots, and the British. On Monday there was some hope, according to a spokesman here, that one of these proposals would be accepted and would work.

But on Tuesday, the hope faded, the reason, Turkey proposed that the so-called autonomous region stretched from one end of northern Cypress to the other, incorporating about one-third of the island, the richest third. It was to the Greeks an absolute outrageous proposal.

The Turks make up only 18 percent of the population of Cypress. Why should they get more than 30 percent of the land and the most arable land at that? Britain, which has a special responsibility for Cypress, saw that the Geneva negotiation was going to break up, so Britain proposed a 24 to 36-hour cooling off period. Turkey turned down this British idea.

On Tuesday night, Washington time, the Turks resumed their military operations in Cypress. Kissinger broke away from a dinner long enough to inform President Ford about the renewal of the fighting, and yesterday Kissinger sent his veteran spokesman, Robert McCloskey, to the briefing

room to issue a solemn warning to both Greece and Turkey, that if they go to war, then they can no longer count on what he called a continuing line of military supplies from the United States.

In addition, McCloskey deplored the Turkish action and ridiculed as plain baloney a spate of reports that the United States was tilting towards Turkey. The word "tilt" can drive the Secretary of State up the nearest wall. Kissinger recalls his less than glowing role in the India-Pakistan War of December, 1971, when the United States tilted towards Pakistan and U.S. officials denied that there was any tilting at all.

At that time the U.S. tilted towards Pakistan because Pakistan was the secret key intermediary between the United States and China. This time there is the impression that the United States is tilting towards Turkey, all that plain baloney notwithstanding.

For many weeks as Turkey consistently violated the cease fire, the United States said nothing publicly. Yesterday, after a clear-cut Turkish attack against Cypress, all the United States could do was threaten to withhold arms from Turkey and then only if Turkey and Greece go to war.

Back of American policy all the time, it seems, was the desire to help Turkey get a foothold on Cypress. Why? Because, the reasoning goes, it would help keep the island anti-Communist, it would provide for Turkish control of a part of Cypress to help, in part to monitor Soviet shipping and to have a kind of base in the event of a new Soviet-American confrontation over the Middle East.

The Turks probably disrupted this idea by wanting too much, too fast, by resorting to force once again. Now the U.S. is trying to retain its strategic objective while containing the fighting on Cypress.

FIRST LINE REPORT - WTOP
With Bernard Kalb
August 16, 1974

BERNARD KALB: Post-Nixon, an ideal moment to put the country together again, to borrow an exhausted phrase. "My former colleagues," the new President told a Joint Session of Congress the other night, "You and I have a lot of work to do. Let's get on with it."

He has too been getting on with it, like a chef in the kitchen, tasting this, adding a bit of sugar here, checking the domestic menu. In an indefatigable bid to ease the Nation's anxieties, to start the process of renewal, of healing, post-Nixon, but the world keeps boiling over, demanding attention. A look at the gasoteric challenge after this.

(Announcement)

BERNARD KALB: If the world were well-bred it might be a gentleman, relaxed for a moment, to provide the new man in the White House with an opportunity to concentrate on things at home.

He has, of course, been doing just that, but the world keeps intruding, everything from war to assassination, and some threats in between.

The wife of South Korea's President, killed, against the background of tension within that country, North Vietnamese tanks reported within 15 miles north of Saigon, the closest such tanks have ever come to South Vietnamese capital.

And looking in the other direction, Cyprus, turned into a battlefield while the war drums seem to be heard once again in the Middle East.

Altogether, not exactly a thoughtful, relaxed welcome to a new President.

Nor is that all. There is the urgency of those SALT talks with the Russians, the need to put new life into the process of normalizing relations with China. The new President has found time to tackle foreign affairs in his very first week in the White House. Indeed, more than 50 envoys from as many countries were rotated into the Oval Office his very first day as President last week; diplomacy by assembly line, sort of. And he devoted much of Wednesday this week to foreign affairs, disclosing that he would be visiting Japan before the end of the year. It was something that Richard Nixon had always wanted to do.

To chancelleries abroad, the study of President Ford is top priority. The reviews he has been getting in the American press as a foreign policy expert have not been exactly flattering, even though they have been amiable. One Ford supporter is quoted by one of the news weeklies as quipping that Gerald Ford knows as much about foreign affairs as a butterfly.

The new President himself once capsulized his diplomatic autobiography back in December, 1973, in a couple of sentences. "I am a reformed isolationist, who before World War II was mistaken, like a lot of people. I have become, I think," he went on to say, "a very ardent internationalist."

The openness he has pledged in domestic affairs he has also pledged in international affairs. "It is my intention to deal openly with allies and adversaries," he says, which would represent a break in the rhythm of secrecy that was the style of carrying out the diplomatic spectacles in the heyday of Mr. Nixon. It still remains to be seen whether Mr. Ford will live up to that advertisement of openness.

But the two Presidents, the ex and the present, are linked to the same man in the complicated field of executing foreign policy, Henry Kissinger. As Secretary of State he has become the visible symbol of continuity in U.S. diplomacy. His expertise perhaps is more indispensable to Mr. Ford than to Mr. Nixon who prided himself on his own expertise in foreign policy.

In any case, the world has made it clear to Gerald Ford in his first seven days as President that it will not wait until he sorts out America, and Gerald Ford, for his part, has made it perfectly clear, to recall a familiar phrase, that he won't wait either.

The introductions over, we will all be watching to see how they get along.

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FIRST LINE REPORT
WITH MORTON DEAN
AUGUST 19, 1974

MORTON DEAN: The Vice Presidential guessing game: Is this any way to choose our leaders? Back in a moment.

(Announcement)

MORTON DEAN: This reporter spends more than a little bit of his time visiting grass roots America, reporting political moods and trends. As Watergate festered, we discerned that among other things, the folks back home were hankering for some straight talk about the way America's business was being handled or mishandled.

On that point we do not mean to state the obvious with a sense of discovery. But now we are all involved in this Vice Presidential guessing game. Another charade, we have heard some people say. Why doesn't the President just get on with it and choose the Vice President? What purpose is served by leaking names here and floating names there?

There are some practical as well as political reasons why, and we will touch on some of them. There is precedent. At political conventions Presidential hopefuls for years have dangled Vice Presidential nominations before the party faithful like a hunk of beef before a pride of hungry lions. It is one way of paying obeisance to all segments of the party.

Thus currently we have the names Rockefeller, Bush and Baker prominently mentioned. Nelson Rockefeller, former New York Governor, whose image is left of center, Party Chairman George Bush and Senator Howard Baker, whose ideologies are right of center, and for a while we were told that women were under consideration, but even the women liberationist we know could not swallow that one.

The idea of course is for a President to make everyone, every section of the country, every philosophy, feel wanted and needed, so toss everybody a bone. Over the years we have never found anyone who was all that upset about being mentioned under the heading "Vice Presidential possibility."

It is great publicity, especially locally. It massages the considerable egos that many politicians seem

to have and can pay off at a later date for a President, a grateful Senator, a Congressman reminded he was on the Vice Presidential mention list, responding by being on the right side of an issue when the votes are counted.

Generally, politicians feel it is better to have been mentioned and to have lost than to have not been mentioned at all. President Lyndon Johnson delighted in orchestrating political surprises. In 1964 he floated the names of enough politicians as possible running mates to fill a small-sized ballroom. As the guessing game reached a climax, we remember walking through a back corridor at the Atlantic City Convention Hall and finding boxes of posters, banners and buttons, with the name and face of Senator Hubert Humphrey. Apparently Johnson had actually made his choice rather early in the game.

Doing it the way President Ford is doing it is akin to hoisting an antenna, a way of receiving feedback from politicians and from the general public about the individuals on the mention list. It also provides an opportunity for scandal to surface, an opportunity to hear any skeletons that might be rattling around a contender's closet. Had Senator McGovern not chosen Senator Eagleton as his running mate so hastily, all that embarrassment that followed might have been avoided. Eagleton's history of mental depression probably would have surfaced, his nomination avoided.

Currently, allegations about Nelson Rockefeller have made the headlines and have been demolished as unsubstantiated. At least doing it this way, much about a candidate's political and personal life is aired before the Congress begins consideration of the Vice Presidential nomineee.

With all that the country has been through lately, better a guessing game for a while than another national trauma.

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FIRST LINE REPORT-WTOP
WITH BERNARD KALB
August 20, 1974

BERNARD KALB: In the last ten days or so, not only has the face of the President changed, but so has the tense of the Nation. Tense, not in a sense of talk, although that was part of it, too, but rather tense in the sense of past, present and future tense. The resignation of Richard Nixon with its sudden end to the national preoccupation with his role in the Watergate scandal has released the country from the past tense and catapulted America forward. Some specifics after this.

(Announcement)

BERNARD KALB: We can see it in the headlines, Watergate shares but no longer dominates the front page, the television and radio news broadcasts. There was a time when it did, less than two weeks ago in fact, when the White House was still Richard Nixon's.

The daily news briefings at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue saw questions and answers dealing primarily with Watergate and the degree of the then President's involvement in that third-rate burglary attempt, as it was once described.

The Nixon White House was eager to go on to other subjects, all right, almost any other subject, but there were too many unanswered questions about Watergate that needed to be asked and they were, the result being that the emphasis was on the past; the present and future sidetracked.

Suddenly, that has changed. Richard Nixon's resignation and Gerald Ford's inauguration have revised the tense in which America now lives, from past tense to what is going on now, what needs to be done tomorrow.

In Nixon's day, his White House spokesmen would portray him as business-as-usual, working on the problems of the country. But there were many who believed that in his seclusion Mr. Nixon was concerned primarily with his own defense. Now, instead of a Presidential defense dominating the White House, there is a sense of Presidential doing, the paralyzing impact of Watergate has vanished.

In foreign affairs, for example, there was concern in those last months of Richard Nixon that his need to shore up his conservative supporters in the Senate might be inhibiting new momentum in the country's relations with China and with Russia, the theory being that Mr. Nixon might not want to rush toward, say, more expanded relations with the Communists in Peking if it meant an eroding of his conservative block on Capitol Hill.

President Ford is operating under no such handicap. What is more, the new President, given his promise to cooperate with Congress, can look forward to the expectation of Congress endorsing his foreign policy initiatives.

The old President sometimes found himself blocked. For example, his effort to remove discriminatory taxes on Soviet imports never cleared Capitol Hill.

In domestic affairs, too, there is a new sense of expectancy, of things getting accomplished. The new President may not come up with any miracles, for example, of combating inflation, but there is a widespread feeling that when he talks about tackling problems, he means it.

Amnesty, another subject for the young Americans who chose not to fight in Vietnam, those who dodged the draft and fled the country. Now the new President has taken on that controversial and emotional issue, saying that his Administration will give a second chance to those he described as the 50,000 casualties abroad or absent without leave from the real America. That problem, dealing with the future of these Americans, will now be debated across the Nation. There hadn't been much talk about that issue during Nixon's final months.

There are a variety of other examples, the point of it all being that the country now seems to be discussing its present and future. Not that Watergate is behind us -- that is still being prosecuted. But America now seems to be looking ahead, not backwards.

FIRST LINE REPORT - WTOF
With Marvin Kalb
August 22, 1974

MARVIN KALB: Good morning. Rodger Paul Davies, a memorial. That in one minute.

(Announcement)

MARVIN KALB: Rodger Paul Davies returned to the United States yesterday from his first Ambassadorial assignment. He returned in a flag-draped coffin. Davies was murdered earlier this week in Nicosia, Cyprus, probably by anti-American extremists, venting their anger at American policy and their anguish at the fate of their island nation.

Davies had been Ambassador to Cyprus since May 14 of this year. He had been at his post for not quite six weeks when bullets of hate found their mark. According to records from the scene, the bullets came from an unfinished apartment house about 70 feet from the Embassy building.

The assassins used a Communist-made submachine gun, an AK-47 perhaps. From the trajectory of the bullets, it seemed clear the gunmen knew the layout of the Embassy. They shot into the Ambassador's office. They couldn't see him, but they might have guessed that he would be nearby. They guessed right. He was, and their bullets killed him.

Davies was not the first American diplomat to be killed in the line of duty. He will not be the last. But he was in his way a very special man, special in his gentleness, in his knowledge of the Arab world and in his straightforward devotion to duty and country. And he never distinguished between the two.

He was 53 years old, a California by birth, a Californian in death. His coffin was flown to California late yesterday after his memory was honored at an air base near Washington by the notables who knew him and by the not so notables who did not, by the diplomats who were his colleagues and by the other professionals at the State Department who were his kin, by the curious who stood beyond the fence and by the press who were drawn, as always, toward power.

And the new and the old practitioners of power were there. Representing the new, President Ford, representing the old, Secretary of State Kissinger. The two blending their vintages, talents and articulateness to honor an American diplomat. Those at the airport never saw the coffin. It was left on board the big C-135, which brought it from Cyprus.

They did see the Ambassador's daughter, Dana, age 20, and his son, John, age 15. The Ambassador was a widower. His wife died of cancer last year after a long illness. President Ford greeted the two children. Dana was red-eyed, but fully composed; John no less red-eyed, no less composed.

They stood at attention while a 19 gun salute was sounded, while the "Star Spangled Banner" was played, while Kissinger praised their father and while the President did as well. Mr. Ford ended his short but eloquent oration by presenting their fathers flag to them, the Ambassador's flag, and then he leaned down and gently kissed Dana, a human impulse acted on and not programmed. or so it seemed to the reporters.

Dana and John then walked towards the VIP lounge where they received a long line of well wishers. It was a very sad and very moving tribute to a very good diplomat, and it demonstrated that every crisis in the world has the capacity to touch this Nation. Cyprus is no exception, despite the cries of critics that the Cyprus crisis is not America's business.

It may not have been, but it is, and maybe not only in a small way. Davies is a poignant reminder that the United States cannot run away from Cyprus, or the Golan or the 17th parallel.

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AUG 23 1974

FIRST LINE REPORT
WITH PHIL JONES
August 23, 1974

PHIL JONES: Who are the men who have the President's ear? In a moment a look at the men moving in and out of the Oval Office.

(Announcement)

PHIL JONES: President Ford has just received a report from his transition team and he hasn't yet had a chance to digest the findings. The report deals with what should be done with the leftovers from the Nixon White House, or at least those who haven't taken the message that they really aren't wanted by the Ford team, and the transition report also provides some guidance on how much Mr. Ford can cut down on the size of the White House staff.

He would like to reduce the number of White House employees, but it may be beyond his control. The President's men, at least at this point in the transition are:

Robert Hartman, the architect of the President's highly acclaimed inaugural or acceptance speech. Hartman holds Cabinet-level status. He was Chief of Staff while Mr. Ford was Vice President. He is 57 years old, a former newspaper reporter, and observers describe him as extremely jealous of Alexander Haig, the whizz, the President's Chief of Staff.

Haig's future is uncertain, but whether long time Ford aides like Haig or not is somewhat irrelevant at this juncture. The fact is, the President likes Haig. Haig was the only person in the old Nixon Administration who would take time to keep then Vice President Ford informed and Mr. Ford hasn't forgotten this. Haig will be around for quite some time, probably until the President reorganizes his time and at that time Mr. Ford is expected to downgrade the role of Chief of Staff, quite possibly abolishing it altogether, and instead creating an operations officer of sorts, someone to handle all of the paper work

That would probably not be a powerful enough job for Haig and at that point some think he would probably take an honorable discharge, either returning to the military or

going into industry.

Also close to the President on a daily basis is Philip Buchen, recently appointed head of the President's legal office. Buchen is from Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was the President's first law partner. It is Buchen who will be advising Mr. Ford on how to handle the sticky problem of custody of Nixon tapes and documents still at the White House.

The House Democrat is John Marsh, although he claims to be independent now. Marsh is 47, a former four-term conservative Democratic Congressman from Virginia. He moved to Ford's Vice Presidential staff after a year as the Pentagon's top lobbyist. Marsh now holds Cabinet-level status, still very much involved in advising the President on military matters.

The President is expected to turn to his Vice President, Nelson Rockefeller, for help on the economic front, but for the immediate organization of the economic summit, Mr. Ford has turned to William Seidman, a Grand Rapids businessman. Seidman was reportedly involved in a power struggle with Hartmann while Mr. Ford was Vice President. He is close to the President but Hartmann has one of the offices closest to the President's.

The infighting is described as fierce at times. In fact, Ford aides, most of them with him since his Vice Presidency, have a generally low regard for those Nixon staffers still around. It is not that the Nixon people are incompetent, it is simply the feeling that they are all tainted by Watergate, that many of them still have the so-called Nixon arrogance towards everybody, especially Congress and the Press, and that they just aren't needed on the Ford team.

As one Ford aide put it, "The Nixon people think we are just a bunch of clods from Grand Rapids. But our record is just a little better than theirs."

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