

This is an historic moment. As I stated in 1965 during our consideration of what is now the 25th Amendment ~~of the Constitution~~, "Procedure for Confirmation of a nomination by both Houses is unique in our experience." Never before has this House had the Constitutional function of confirming any appointment made by the President of the United States. Never before has a Vice President of the United States been appointed. History is devoid of precedent to guide us. We are totally inexperienced in the confirming process, quite unlike the other body, the Senate of the United States, which has been advising and consenting — or rejecting — presidential appointments for 185 years.

But the precedent we set, while new to ~~this~~ ^{the} House of ~~the people's~~ Representatives, and new to this Committee, will have great influence in ~~the future~~ ^{time to come}, for of the past be a measure of the future, it will be necessary, under the ~~the~~ Mandate of the 25th Amendment to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice President ~~in~~ ^{on the average of} one term out of 3. Eight Vice Presidents have assumed the Presidency, leaving vacant the office to which they ^{were} elected because there has been no machinery to fill it. Another six Vice Presidents have died in office. Two have resigned.

Now, without precedent ~~from the past to guide us~~, we are engaged in the Confirmation of the 40th Vice President of the United States.

Just as the record will mark the precedent we set today,
so too will it note the historic position of the man nominated
to fill the present vacancy. Congressman Jerry Ford of Michigan
will go down in history as the first vice President chosen
to fill a vacancy ~~in that office~~, and as the ~~first appointee~~
~~to high office~~ most intensely investigated, the most
minutely scrutinized, ^{of any appointee to high public office,} far more carefully considered than
any of his predecessors. It is significant that this
searching inquiry has raised no doubts about his qualifications.

We in Michigan are extremely proud of Jerry Ford.
We deem him ~~worthy to be~~ of the high office to which he
is being called. ^H We know of his long-time ambition to
preside over this House, and how well he prepared himself
and how hard he has worked and how honestly to achieve
the ~~high position~~ ^{post} of Speaker. ~~of the House. But the~~ ~~the~~
~~political fates have denied him this high honor.~~ We
believe him duly and truly prepared to preside over
the other body, and to perform with ability,
~~fidelity~~ and courage the duties and responsibilities
he is being called to assume.

As an historical ~~aid~~ aide, Mr. Ford will be
the first resident of Michigan to serve as vice President. Three
in the past, United States Senators from Michigan have
been presidents pro tempore of the Senate, the latest
being Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, one of Jerry Ford's
great political mentors, President Pro tempore in the

80th Congress during a vacancy in the office of vice President. And it is interesting, at least in Michigan, to note that both of those Presidents pro tempore, Senator Thomas W Ferry of Grand Haven, and Senator Vandenberg of Grand Rapids, came from the same Congressional district that Jerry Ford, ~~the vice President designate~~, so long ~~as~~ served in the House.

Mr Chairman, five weeks have passed since the gentleman from Michigan, ^{the} minority leader of the House, was nominated by the President of the United States to fill the existing vacancy in the office of vice President. During that interval of time, Mr Ford and the members of his immediate family have been investigated by the FBI, the IRS, the staff of this Committee and by the Senate of the United States, whose presiding officer he will become. He has been extensively examined ~~in~~ under oath by the Rules and Administration Committee of the other body. I mean not to suggest that our work has already been done for us, but I would hope the questioning now about to commence will not be a retracing of the testimony already received by ~~the~~ thorough examination in the Senate. Every member of our Committee has received a full verbatim transcript of proceedings before the Senate Committee, and ~~so~~ insofar as the testimony is clear and uncontroverted - and it is, - our own record ought not to cover the same ground again, to do so is

Mr. Chairman, five weeks have passed since Mr. Ford was nominated by the President of the United States to fill the existing vacancy in the office of Vice President. During those five weeks he has been ^{thoroughly} investigated by the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, the staff of this Committee and by the Senate of the United States, whose presiding officer he will become. He has been extensively examined under oath by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. Every member of our Committee has received a full verbatim transcript of the Senate hearings.

I do not mean to suggest that our work has already been done for us. Since the Constitution directs this House as well as the Senate to participate in the process of confirming the vice president designate, it is incumbent upon us ^{as a Committee of the House} to satisfy ourselves, quite independently of the Senate, of his qualifications and to report our conclusions to the full House.

But in performing that function, we will of course be covering ^{pretty much} the same ground already plowed in the Senate Committee hearings.

Mr Chairman, it is with much pride that I introduce our colleague from Michigan, a man who is known to us all and so needs no introduction as such. A veteran of 25 years in this House, coming to Congress first in 1949 with you, Mr Chairman, Jerry Ford served for many years on the Appropriations Committee before being chosen Minority leader of the House in 1965.

He is a lawyer, a graduate of Yale law school in 1941, a practicing attorney in Grand Rapids, Michigan both before and after World War II, a Naval officer in World War II, a member of this House having been elected 13 consecutive times by the people of Michigan's 5 Congressional district. I have known him personally for 25 years. His reputation and good character are above reproach. He is known for his openness, his honesty, his truthfulness, a man with the courage of his convictions. He has already contributed to our list of Memorable quotations when he said that Truth is the glue that holds society together. With the pride that all Michigan feels at this hour, I welcome my friend and colleague, highly confident he will acquit himself before our committee as ably as he answered the inquiry of the other body.