 GOP leaders to ask for Nixon's resignation

By Norman D. Sandle © 1973 The Tech

Congress, after more than two months of investigation by the special Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., as successor to former VP Spiro T. Agnew.

Agnew was convicted October 10 on one count of tax evasion in federal district court in Baltimore immediately following his forced resignation.

The Nixon Administration must be relieved that the variance in the line of presidential succession once again is occupied by Rep. Nixon "team player." However, White House officials might -- and with good reason -- view the Ford confirmation as the beginning of the end for the "man who brought you Watergate.

According to an authoritative source, Ford's inauguration as vice president signaled the initiation of an effort by members of Nixon's own party to force the President's resignation by early next year.

Repeatedly loading the movement to persuade Nixon to voluntarily step down are Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, R-Ariz., and GOP minority leader Sen. Hugh Scott, R-Pa. Both men have warned of the President's declining popularity, since the issuing of White House tapes unfolded early this year.

One source on Capitol Hill reported several weeks ago to go now to Nixon immediately and ask the President to resign in order to save the Republican Party in the 1974 congressional elections. There have been some signs of support from a number of their Republican colleagues, but one source on Capitol Hill said this week that even conservative Republicans have had little trouble making "casual remarks" about the President and the problems facing the White House.

Goldwater could not be reached for comment, but his press secretary, Tony Smith, said the Arizona Republican has not discussed any plan to ask for Nixon's resignation. "Such a conversation has never taken place," Smith said.

Scott's office also issued a quick denial when contacted by The Tech late Wednesday. When asked if the Senate minority leader was planning a trip to the White House to discuss the President's resignation, press aide Robert Herhertening said there was "no validity" in the report "as far as Sen. Scott is concerned."

However, confirmation of the plan the President's resignation was that such an effort will be made. A GOP leadership is becoming increasingly disenchanted with the President's defense of his Vice President's tax denials of guilt called only one week before Ford's confirmation, and said the statements made Wednesday only meant the possibility could now be viewed and discussed.

However, a request for his resignation by leaders of his own party during a private meeting may elicit a different response from Nixon. The President will if he is not already -- be made aware of the consensus among many Republican members of Congress that his resignation would be in the best interest of the country and the party. He may be able to convince the government from its lengthy period of healing.

As for Nixon's repeated promise not to succumb to pressure calling for his resignation, some of Agnew's most vehement denials of guilt came only one week before he was forced to resign by US attorneys who had compiled evidence that he had taken bribes while serving as governor of Maryland and -- until December 1972 -- serving as Vice President.

As long as he is not being forced out of office by overwhelming criminal evidence, Nixon will have the opportunity to make a smoother and less controversial exit from the Oval Office. A likely scenario, and one that has probably been considered by the President himself, is one where he is admitted to Bethesda Naval Hospital for observation, and two days later makes a masterful exit from the Oval Office he must step down -- at least temporarily for medical reasons.

With the pressure Nixon has been under, it seems plausible he might reach the point where he "could not" subject himself to further impeachment. However, the Almaghy Dollar has no choice but to follow suit. Many of them is now an essential prerequisite for flexibility in choosing one's life style.

Howard Slatzer and Mike McNamee's editorial ([2/14/73, pg. 11], as in the Chicago Daily News, has prompted me to attempt to determine whether or not this is a week students could draw such narrow conclusions. I suspect the majority of students who read a school newspaper are probably ones who have free time after high school to participate in extracurricular activities, and this preparation coupled with a surplus of time allows them to engage in similar activities in college. This assumption leads me to the conclusion that these students probably do not know the meaning of hard work.

I realize that there are probably some health and aesthetic reasons and many other social factors which discourage a student from keeping up with the Journal. However, I believe that the Institute cannot "offici- mously" disassociate itself from the staff of the UMOC campaign against尼克松.

To the Editor:

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