

## NATION: Nixon Resigns

# Nixon Resigns: Ford Becomes President

Washington, D.C.,  
August 9, 1974

**Gerald Ford** is the new president. Ford was vice-president under Nixon. **Nixon resigned** [quit] after learning Congress wanted to impeach him.

Congress wanted to impeach [accuse of crimes against the government] Nixon because he OK'd the **Watergate** break-in (see below). Then Nixon told Congress that he did not know anything about Watergate.

Ford is the first president not elected by the people. The 25th

**Amendment** says a president can name a new vice-president when necessary. Nixon picked Ford after the elected vice-president, **Spiro Agnew, resigned.**

Agnew quit after being accused of:

- Taking bribes [money for special favors].

- Cheating on his income taxes.

Wrongdoing is making it hard for people to trust the government. President Ford is promising to make government open and honest again.



Gerald Ford: President #38

## Watergate Scandal Brings Down Leaders

Washington, D.C., 1974

The Watergate scandal forced President Nixon out of office. Other government leaders went to jail. Here's how Watergate happened:

### 1 THE BREAK-IN:

June 17, 1972—Five men are caught breaking into Democratic Party offices at Watergate. Watergate is an office building in Washington, D.C. The men are arrested for:

- Breaking into the offices.
- Taking information from files.
- "Bugging" the telephones to listen secretly to Democrats *planning their party's* presidential campaign.

### 3 THE HEARINGS:



Summer 1973—The Senate sets up a group to look into the break-in. As a result:

- Seven of Nixon's staff are arrested and sent to jail for covering up the break-in.
- Nixon's own lawyer, John Dean, says Nixon knew about the cover-up.

### 4 THE TAPES:

July 1973—A White House worker tells the Senate committee that President Nixon has tapes of his conversations in the White House.

July 1974—The U.S. Supreme Court orders Nixon to give up the tapes. The tapes show that Nixon took part in the Watergate cover-up. On the tapes, Nixon is heard talking about the cover-up just six days after the break-in.

### 2 THE COVER-UP:

Nixon says he knows nothing about the break-in. But many believe:

- Nixon knew about the break-in.
- Nixon is now covering up [lying].

MEMO—

I  
RESIGN!

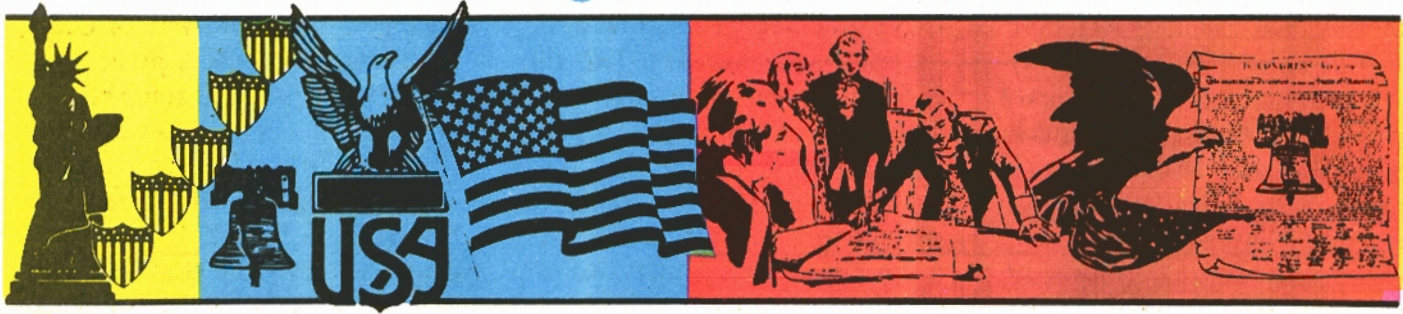
R. Nixon

### 5 THE RESIGNATION:

August 9, 1974—Congress wants to impeach [accuse of crimes against the government] Nixon for the cover-up. Before Congress can vote on impeaching the president, Nixon resigns.

## NATION: America's Birthday

### It Was 200 Years Ago...



### Ford's Popularity Wanes

Washington, D.C., 1976

President Ford's hope to win a term as president on his own is sinking. As he finishes out Nixon's term, many Americans are unhappy with him. Here's why:

■ Ford pardoned Nixon for any crimes Nixon might have done while he was president. This means Nixon cannot be put on trial for his part in the Watergate cover-up. Many feel Nixon should be put on trial. Then Americans can know the full truth about Watergate.

■ Ford gave amnesty [government forgiveness] to Vietnam draft dodgers. [Draft dodgers are people who ran away from the U.S. so they would not have to go into the Army.] Ford says these men can come home without being put in jail. But they will have to serve their country in other ways for two years. Many feel that if Nixon got a full pardon, draft dodgers should, too.

### Jimmy Carter Becomes President

Washington, D.C., 1977

Jimmy Carter wins the presidency. Ford loses.

One of Carter's first acts as president:

■ Gives full pardon to Vietnam War draft dodgers.

### U.S. Celebrates Bicentennial

Across America,  
July 4, 1976

The U.S. is celebrating its 200th birthday as a nation. Two hundred years ago, in 1776, Americans signed the Declaration of Independence from England.

Americans are celebrating:

- Our government. The U.S. is a democracy that has lasted 200 years.
- Our people. The U.S. is made up of people from many nations.

■ Our freedoms. Americans have rights no one can take away.

■ Our riches. The U.S. has more natural resources than almost any other country.

■ Our past. Americans have overcome wars, the Depression, violence, and scandal.

■ Our future. Americans will make advances in civil rights, medicine, space, and economics.

**NATION: President Carter****Iran Crisis Over: Hostages Come Home**

Teheran, Iran, January 21, 1981

On President Carter's last day in office, Iran frees 53 **American hostages** [people held prisoner]. Here's what happened:

1. 1979: The Shah [ruler] of Iran is overthrown. He comes to the U.S. to live. The new leaders in Iran tell the U.S. to send the Shah back. Iran says the Shah is guilty of crimes against Iran.

2. November 1979: Iran takes 53 Americans hostage. Iran tells the U.S. it will free the hostages only if the U.S. sends the Shah back to Iran.

Carter will not send the Shah back to Iran. Carter tries to make other deals with Iran. But Iran will not give up the hostages.

3. April 1980: Carter secretly sends U.S. military to rescue the

hostages. The plan fails. A U.S. helicopter runs into a plane and crashes. Eight U.S. soldiers are killed in the crash. The hostages stay in Iran.

4. January 21, 1981: American hostages are free. U.S. and Iran come to an agreement after many months of negotiations [talks to work things out].

**Carter's Four Years as President**

Americans elected President Carter in 1976 because:

- He was a newcomer to national government, so he had no ties to Vietnam or Watergate.

- He was a small-town farmer with "down-home" ways.

- He was open and honest.

Here is a look at what President Carter did:

**Got Less People to Do More Work in Government**

**WHY:** To save money. Too many government departments had too many workers doing too little.

**HOW:**

- Gave department managers more money for doing a good job.

- Fired workers who were not doing good work.

**Reached Camp David Accords, 1979**

**WHAT:** A peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

**WHY:** To get the two countries to stop fighting after 30 years of war.

**HOW:** President Carter invited President **Sadat** from Egypt and Prime Minister **Begin** from Israel to Camp David, Maryland.

- Helped them talk out their differences.



Jimmy Carter: President #39

**Eased Energy Crisis**

**WHAT:** Persian Gulf countries cut back on shipments of oil and gas to U.S.

**OUTCOME:** U.S. did not have enough gas and oil for cars, electricity, and heating.

**SOLUTIONS:**

**Department of Energy:** Carter set up a government office to help U.S. look for new sources

**Signed New Panama Canal Treaty, 1978**

**WHY:** To stay friends with Panama. Panama wanted the U.S. out of Panama. Panama wanted to control the Panama Canal.

**TREATY TERMS:** The treaty gives:

- Panama control of the canal zone.
- Panama control of the Panama Canal itself in the year 2000.

- U.S. the right to keep the canal open.

- All countries the right to use the canal.

of energy—such as wind, solar [from the sun], and nuclear.

**Energy Conservation:** Carter asked Americans to use less oil and natural gas. He asked people to:

- Use carpools.
- Buy smaller cars.
- Insulate houses.

**Guarded Middle East —The Carter Doctrine, 1980**

**WHAT:** Carter said U.S. troops would fight if Russia attacked countries on the Persian Gulf.

**WHY:** To keep Russia out of Iran and other oil-rich countries on the Persian Gulf. Russia had already taken **Afghanistan**, a country close to the Persian Gulf. Carter was afraid other countries would fall like

dominoes to Russia.

**OTHER STEPS BY CARTER:**

- **Boycotted** [kept U.S. athletes away from] **1980 Olympic Games in Russia.**

- Stopped **SALT II** (talks between U.S. and Russia to limit arms).

- Stopped sale of grain to Russia.

## NATION: Minorities Fight for Rights

# A Look Back on Minorities Fighting for Rights

In the 1960s, the black minority started a civil rights movement. Blacks, wanted:

- To let people know about unfair treatment of blacks in the U.S.

- To change unfair laws and peoples' bad feelings toward blacks.

The black civil rights movement gave other minorities courage to fight for their rights.

Here's a look at how minorities are pushing for change:

### The Elderly

**MINORITY:** The **elderly**—people over 65.

**PROBLEMS:** Being thought of as useless. Fear of losing income. Fear of getting sick.

**SOLUTION:** The **Gray Panthers** forms. This is a group of people over 65. The Gray Panthers work:

- To keep government from doing away with Social Security.
- To get help in paying for health care.
- To let people keep their jobs past age 65.

### Handicapped

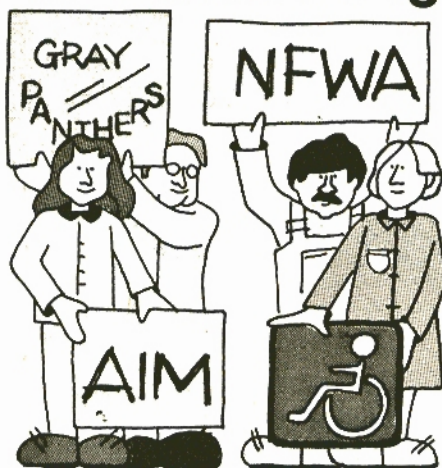
**MINORITY:** The **handicapped**—people who have problems hearing, seeing, learning, walking.

**PROBLEM:** Cannot use many public services, schools, and buildings because most of these are set up for people without handicaps.

**SOLUTION:** News stories, TV shows, and organizations tell others about the needs of the handicapped.

**OUTCOME:** The handicapped get:

- Easier ways to get around in public places—wider parking places; ramps to buildings.
- Transportation to schools or jobs.
- Special help in school.



### Carter Puts Minorities Into Government Jobs

President Jimmy Carter wants **minorities** [people with less power than most Americans] to have more say in government. So he is giving some high-level government jobs to Hispanic-Americans, women, and blacks. Carter has appointed:

- Three Hispanic-Americans to his White House staff.
- The first black American to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.
- A black woman to a cabinet post.

### American Indians

**MINORITY:** **American Indians**—Americans who came to the U.S. before whites came.

**PROBLEM:** Broken promises from the U.S. government. In the 1950s, the government said it would no longer help Indians. States should help the Indians living there. But the states were not helping. And the Indians were poor. Many did not have jobs or educations.

**SOLUTIONS:**

- Indians:**
- Formed nonviolent action groups.
  - Wrote books on whites' treatment of Indians to get the public on the side of Indians.
  - Formed **American Indian Movement (AIM)**. AIM is a group that agreed to use violence if it had to get better treatment for Indians.

### Hispanic Americans

**MINORITY:** **Hispanic-Americans**. These are people from Spanish-speaking countries. Most Hispanics in the U.S. are from Mexico.

**PROBLEM:** Poor working and living conditions and low pay for **migrant workers** [field workers who move from job to job].

**SOLUTION:** A workers' union.

**LEADER:** **Cesar Chavez**

- Calls for change through non-violent [peaceful] action.

- Starts the **National Farm Workers Association (NFWA)**.

This is a union for migrant workers. Through this union, migrant workers now can work together for better pay and working conditions.

**WHAT NFWA DOES:** Boycotts growers. Hispanic-American grape pickers in California ask all Americans to stop buying grapes until grape growers give better treatment to grape pickers. Later the union boycotts lettuce.

**OUTCOME:** Americans see need to make life better for Hispanic-Americans.

- 1970—Growers give in to some union demands for better pay and housing.

**AIM'S ACTIVITIES:**

- 1972: AIM says the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is hurting, not helping, Indians. So 500 AIM members take over the BIA offices in Washington. AIM members do over \$2 million worth of damage to BIA offices. BIA promises to do better.

- 1973: AIM members set up an armed camp on a reservation at **Wounded Knee, South Dakota**. Indians will not give up until they get certain rights. They want:
  - ✓ Lands promised by the U.S. government in old, broken treaties.
  - ✓ A return to Indian culture.
  - ✓ A say in government programs for Indians.

**OUTCOME:** Congress gives Indians:

- Control of government programs on Indian reservations.
- More control of schools on reservations.