

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 7, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: RAY PRICE

FROM: DAVE GERGEN *DJ*

In the event that you are called upon to contribute to a resignation speech, here are some thoughts:

1. Leaves with a heavy heart but without bitterness. This is not a time for recrimination, but for reconciliation. Nothing would fit this better than to recall the closing passages of RN's first Inaugural -- "We have endured a long night of the American spirit. But as our eyes catch the dimness of the first rays of dawn, let us not curse the remaining dark. Let us gather the light." Or he could work with the peace that comes "with healing in its wings."
2. Must say that he has made mistake, but that he intended no malice.
3. Would hope that in the years ahead, America would look back and realize that his legacy transcends Watergate, that he had contributed to the building of a more peaceful world -- in Vietnam, in the Middle East, with the Soviet Union and with China. Hopes that he has also helped to chart the road to New Federalism.
4. Those who have served him within the government and within the White House have done so out of a dedication to the public welfare, and they continue to deserve the support and confidence of the public.
5. Finally, RN must call for the public to rally behind Gerald Ford. RN nominated Ford because of his experience, ability and RN's long friendship, all of which convinced him that Ford would be a worthy successor. He should close the speech on this note and with a short farewell peroration.

Overall, Ray, I'm suggesting a brief, dignified, generous almost upbeat speech. It's absolutely essential that he be neither vindictive nor mawkish. This could be one of his shining hours, and the way he departs will have a tremendous impact upon the country's future.

I'm omitting any reference to the question of why he's leaving now and in this manner because that seems so much a personal decision.