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Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The transfer of power from Richard Nixon to Gerald Fordwassmooth, quick and easy, but it will have no immediate impact on the economy itself. Inflation will maintain its double digit status. Money will remain extremely tight, and therefore, expen-sive to acquire. Real GNP growth will be sluggish at best. And the national unemployment rate will likely exceed 6 per cent by year's end.

So the basic parameters for a recession will stay with us. In fact, by almost any traditional standard, this country is already in a recession; and for Black and poor Americans, that could translate into a real depression.

Precisely because current inflation is the worst in our peace time history, PresidentFord labelled it: domestic enemy Number One. emy Number One. Clearly, the country requires cohesive, stable economic policies at the national level, and a President who can devote maximun attention to them. Because of Watergate and related matters, Mr. Nixon was unable to do this. He had, in his own assessment, lost the capacity to lead, indeed, even to govern.

Mr. Ford, however, unhampered by the destructive forces of Watergate, has an oppor-tunity to fill the void in national leadership. At least for a period of time, he can expect the co-operation of leaders of Congress, business, labor, the press and the American public. If that co - operation is used wisely, President Ford can perhaps develop realistic policies that could navigate the economy back to the road of recovery. Butitwon't

While it's a bit early to pass judgement on the Nixon presidency, it is clear his highest marks will come in the field of foreign affairs - and rightly so. Yet, if there is a do-

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mestic area in which Mr. Nixon can claim leadership, it is in the (See Guard page 15)