

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jimmy Carter, the victorious challenger, and Gerald Ford, the vanquished President, both exhausted by their battle for the White House, are planning vacations before the rites of passage that mark the transfer of presidential power.

Carter was meeting today with Vice President-elect Walter F. Mondale, who scheduled a flight to Plains, Ga., for their first conference since the election.

The 52-year-old Georgia peanut

farmer and former governor, who spent nearly two years in his pursuit of the White House, said as he claimed his victory in the wee hours of Wednesday morning that he was pledging himself to "the unification of our country."

It will be up to the two winners, their staffs and the staff of Ford's White House to work out details of the transfer of the control of government from the defeated Republican president to the victorious president-elect.

The margin of victory was a narrow one, and a final tabulation of the electoral vote still could not be made

more than 24 hours after the final vote had been cast.

While the principals in the fight for the right to lead the United States into its third century accepted the results of Tuesday's election and planned for the orderly transfer of power, vote counting continued in widely scattered areas.

In two states, Ohio with 25 electoral votes and Oregon with six, the results in the presidential race remained too close to call. Carter had such narrow leads in both states that his advantage

in either could be overturned by absentee ballots still being tallied.

But the balloting in neither state could change the outcome of the election, which Carter had won in the early hours of Wednesday. Without counting the two states still listed as uncertain, Carter carried 22 states and the District of Columbia with a total of 272 electoral votes, two more than the 270 needed for election.

Ford carried 26 states with a total of 235 electoral votes.

Here was the popular vote total with all the nation's precincts reporting: Carter 40,263,549 or 51 per cent.

Ford 38,512,666 or 48 per cent.

The numbers indicated that 53 per

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