The original documents are located in Box 4, folder "Michigan and Ohio Trip, September 15-16, 1976" of the Francis K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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OHIO BACKGROUNDER

Columbus is an urban Republican stronghold. It is also Ohio's fastest-growing metropolitan area. (Barry Goldwater made his best Ohio showing in Columbus.) The city does have an 18 percent black population, but few ethnics from Eastern and Southern Europe. Columbus is, of course, the capital and home of Ohio State University.

Columbus is represented by two Republicans, Sam Devine from the 12th District and Chalmers Wylie from the 15th. Despite careful redistricting by the Republican state legislature, Devine is believed to be in serious political trouble. He narrowly won in 1974 over City Councilwoman Fran Ryan, who is his opponent again this year. Wylie is expected to win his race.

Patti does not think either Devine or Wylie will tour the Western Electric Plant with you, although Governor Rhodes will. Rhodes, a former Mayor of Columbus, will be governor until 1979.

Senate Race:

Incumbent Republican Senator Robert Taft is seeking a second term. His opponent is Howard Metzenbaum, who was defeated by John Glenn in the 1974 Democratic primary.

Apparently there is no love lost between Glenn, Metzenbaum and former Governor John Gilligan. Rhodes defeated Gilligan

in 1974, when it was assumed that if Gilligan had won he would have been a bright and shining star in national Democratic politics. Gilligan appointed Metzenbaum in 1973 to fill William Saxbe's seat, because Metzenbaum ran a strong race against Taft in 1970. All this tangled web of infighting makes the picture better for Taft, although the Republican Senatorial Committee says Taft is having some problems raising money. Metzenbaum is wealthy and has been lavish in his past campaign spending.

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MICHIGAN BACKGROUNDER

Lansing, population 130,000, is the largest city in the 6th Congressional District, which also includes East Lansing and Jackson. (Lansing has a large Oldsmobile plant, which, of course, would not be directly affected if the United Auto Workers strike Ford tonight (9/14).)

From 1956 to 1974, the 6th District incumbent was Republican Charles Chamberlain. After a narrow win in 1972, he retired in 1974. The seat was won by liberal Democrat Bob Carr, a 29-year-old lawyer. Carr defeated Republican Cliff Taylor by only 647 votes.

This year, Taylor, a trial lawyer, is again the GOP nominee. The Republican Congressional Committee describes this as one of the five best possibilities of unseating a Democratic incumbent. Carr has been targeted for defeat by all the major conservative and business groups.

Taylor, who was raised in Flint, is considered an excellent candidate by the RCC. He graduated from the University of Michigan and George Washington Law School. He served three years in the Navy. He also has served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Ingham County, which includes Lansing and East Lansing, and as an attorney with the Michigan legislature.

Taylor is married and in his mid-30s. (Patti was not impressed by him, and she reports Michigan contacts are not optimistic about his chances.)

Senate Race:

I know you must be especially interested in the Ecsh-Riegle Senate race. (Riegle was elected to Congress in 1966 as a Republican and changed his affiliation to Democrat in 1973.)

The Republican Senatorial Committee describes it as a very tight race. Patti reports from Michigan that one recent poll showed Riegle substantially ahead (47 percent to 25 percent). But Riegle himself was down that much in the primary fight he won.

This is, of course, Phil Hart's seat. I'm sure you know most of this Michigan material, but I thought a few facts on paper might be helpful.

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September 15, 1976

Michigan UpDate

Patti thinks you might catch a question about the UAW strike. She also said the Detroit News poll was receiving big play. (I'm sure you saw it, but I've attached a copy.)

Basic Information on the Strike:

The strike of the United Auto Workers against Ford Motor Company began at midnight last night. Manufacturing plants in 22 states will be immediately affected. No formal negotiations are scheduled until Monday.

The union wants more paid time off. That's one of the key issues. They also are asking for a lump sum payment to pensioners to offset inflation and more money in the strike fund.

Previous UAW strikes were against Ford in 1967, against General Motors in 1970 and Chrysler in 1973.

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OHIO

Background, Columbus Congressional Races

Columbus is represented by two Republicans, Sam Devine from the 12th District and Chalmers Wylie from the 15th.

Columbus is an urban Republican stronghold. It is also Ohio's fastest-growing metropolitan area. (Barry Goldwater made his best showing in Ohio in Columbus.) Columbus does have good size black population of 18 percent, but it has few ethnics from Eastern and Southern Europe. Columbus is, of course, the capital and the home of Ohio State University.

Despite careful redistricting by the Republican State Legislature, Devine is believed to be in serious political trouble. He narrowly won in 1974 over City Councilwoman Fran Ryan. She is again his opponent this year. Patti does not think either Devine or Wylie will tour the Western Electric plant with you, although Gov. Rhodes will. I know you know Rhodes, but wanted to refresh your memory that he is a former Mayor of Columbus. His term as Governor does not expire until 1979.

Senate Race

Incumbent Republican Senator Robert Taft is seeking

a second term. His opponent is Howard Metzenbaum, whom Glenn defeated in the 1974 Democratic primary. Apparently there is no love lost between Glenn, Metzenbaum and former Governor Gilligan. Rhodes defeated Gilligan in 1974, when it was assumed that if Gilligan had won he would be a bright and shining star in National democratic politics. Gilligan appointed Metzenbaum to fill William Saxbe's seat in 1973, because of Metzenbaum's strong showing against Taft in 1970. All of this tangled web of Democratic infighting makes the picture better for Taft, although the Republican Senatorial Committee says Taft is having some problems raising money. Metzenbaum is independently weathy and has been lavious in his campaign spending in the past.

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MICHIGAN

Political Background, 6th Congressional District

Lansing, population 130,000, is the largest city in the 6th, which also includes East Lansing and Jackson.

From 1956 to 1974, the incumbent was Republican Charles Chamberlain. When he retired in 1974 after a narrow win in 1972, the seat was won by liberal Democrat Bob Carr. Carr barely defeated (only 647 votes) Cliff Taylor, a moderate-conservative Republican in 1974.

This year, Taylor, a trial lawyer, is again the GOP nominee. The Republican Congressional Committee by the RCC calls this race one of the five best possibilities in the country for the GOP to unseat a Democrat. Carr has been targeted by all the major conservative and business groups.

Taylor, who was raised in Flint, is considered an excellent candidate. He graduated from the University of Michigan and George Washington Law School. He spent three years in the Navy. He has served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Ingham Country. He also is an attorney for the Michigan legislature.

He is married and in his mid-30s. (Patti describes him as a "milque toast," and says the Michigan contacts are not optimistic about his chances.)

Senate Race

I know you have known Marvin Ecsh for many years, and are familiar with Don Riegle. Riegle was elected in 1966 as a Republican and changed his affiliation to Democrat in 1973.

The Republican Senatorial Committee describes it as a very tight race. Patti reports from Michigan that the latest polls show Riegle substantially ahead (47 percent to 25 percent). But Riegle himself was down that much in the primary fight he eventually won.

This is, of course, Phil Hart's seat. I'm sure you are really in touch with Michigan politics, but I thought in might help to have a few facts on paper.

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The State Journal-Metro
9/17/76 - 7A. Pg.

Staff Photo by BRIAN BURD

Betty Ford phones while Cliff Taylor and Mrs. Helen Milliken observe

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Sparkling Betty Ford pitches for husband

By JULIE LEHR
Staff Writer

The President, says Betty Ford, wants very much to sweep the state of Michigan in this November's election.

"It's his home state, after all. And it's very important," she told well-wishers outside the GOP phone center in downtown Lansing Thursday.

THE FIRST Lady officially opened her campaign on behalf of President Ford with her three-hour stint here.

The day was drab, but Betty Ford sparkled, whether she was greeting members of Michigan State University's marching band, touring the Kresge Art Gallery or making telephone calls to unsuspecting people from the Republican volunteer center at 404 E. Michigan Avenue.

"There is one special thing I want to tell you as voters about Jerry Ford," she said to a crowd of perhaps 300 people who had gathered in front of the center shortly before noon.

"HE IS a man of deep integrity. He is a man that you can absolutely count on. If he says something, he does it. He doesn't promise, then when he gets elected, turn his back on that promise," Mrs. Ford continued.

She emphasized her husband's "great experience in the federal government," experience which dates back 28 years to the time when they had just married.

"I was married to Jerry right in the middle of our first campaign. We spent our honeymoon at a football game. We had to get married on Friday because the game was on Saturday," she said, smiling.

"WE HAD one day to ourselves in Detroit — which is like New York," she said. Then it was back to Grand Rapids and the campaign.

Ford's career has built up since that day to the final stage, the presidency, she said.

"It is not something Jerry sought, but something fate brought. So we felt we had to make the best of it. Our children were not too excited about the prospect of moving into the White House. They had never seen blue jeans in the White House.

"I TOLD them, 'Bring your jeans. It will be just like home,' " Mrs. Ford recounted.

She drew a warm welcome from the crowd who chanted "We want Ford" and "We want Betty" as they had been directed to do by Republican officials in charge of the event.

"I want Ford, too," she warmly responded.

IN THE only remarks she made to the public during her stay here, Mrs. Ford stayed away from issue-oriented subjects, sticking instead with pep talk comments for the volunteers who would be staffing the Ingham County Republican phone center.

Across the street, a marquee on Alex's Restaurant carried a message of welcome for the First Lady. But down the street toward the capitol a "Carter For President" sign was hanging.

Mrs. Ford, who was accompanied to the downtown appearance by Michigan's First Lady, Helen Milliken, was given a "citiztician" award by Ingham County GOP Chairman Paul Stearns, who explained that the term was coined for local candidates who were not adequately described by the term "politician."

SHE WAS preceded on an impromptu speaker's platform by Cliff Taylor, candidate for the 6th Congressional seat now held by Rep. M. Robert Carr, a Democrat, and by Olga Esch, wife of Republican senatorial candidate Marvin Esch.

THE FIRST Lady then went inside to the phone center that is situated over the Michco offices, where cleaning supplies and paper products are sold, to make some calls from names on volunteers' lists.

Using a ballpoint ink pen for dialing, Mrs. Ford placed her first call and reached Mrs. Stephen Dick, 3212 Argyle.

"Hello, this is Betty Ford," she began. "I'm here in Lansing to campaign for my husband . . . No, I'm not kidding. I hope we can count on your support and your husband's this November."

THERE WAS a brief pause, then "Good, very good." Mrs. Ford had received a positive response.

She put in a plug for Esch and Taylor, then asked Mrs. Dick, "Can you get around to some of your friends and talk them into supporting the ticket?"

In reply to the young woman's comments, the First Lady acknowledged, "I know it's difficult with your kids."

A SECOND call brought no answer.

But succeeding calls to the Robert Dingman residence and Frances Dodge home went through and Mrs. Ford continued with her pitch.

Shortly after completing her calls and visiting for a moment with volunteers inside the center, Mrs. Ford emerged back on Michigan Avenue, where she greeted the Dansville High School band, then disappeared into a car to head for the airport.

THROUGHOUT MRS. Ford's stay inside the GOP center, Lansing fire officials kept strict enforcement on the 55-person limit they had imposed on the building after inspecting it earlier this week.

Fire Marshal Gordon Adsit stayed inside the headquarters the whole time to supervise the crowd size.

The phone calls capped a day that began with a serenade of sorts from the MSU marching band which was practicing on the lawn west of President and Mrs. Clifton Wharton's home on campus.

BAND MEMBERS weren't expecting a greeting from the First Lady, but they whooped it up, waiting and cheering when Mrs. Ford emerged around 10:30 and walked through the grass toward the front of the band to say hello.

Next stop — still on campus — was Kresge Art Gallery, where Mrs. Ford, accompanied by Delores Wharton and Mrs. Milliken, viewed a "folk art" display featuring pieces produced in the state prior to 1941.

THE FIRST Lady was guided by Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell, students who had put the show together. But the gallery provided rather cramped quarters for the gaggle of press people, Secret Service agents and members of the White House staff who trailed Mrs. Ford.

The guest of honor didn't seem to mind the crowd, though. She toured leisurely, often commenting on one piece or another, and touching several art objects that interested her.

To go with a seemingly endless smile, Mrs. Ford was flawlessly attired in a gray two-piece suede outfit with a textured wool coat trimmed in suede over it.

WHEN THE gallery tour had ended, the First Lady's motorcade sped downtown along a pre-planned route lined with police cars toward her phone center stop.

Shortly after 1 p.m., Mrs. Ford arrived at Capital City Airport, where she boarded a military plane bound for another campaign stop in Columbus, Ohio.

But she couldn't resist, before boarding the plane, a stop to shake hands with fourth and fifth graders from Windemere School who had come out to catch a glimpse of the President's wife.

THE YOUNGSTERS cheered when Mrs. Ford walked their way. Enthusiastic, the First Lady grabbed hold of many small hands, and in her ebullience, raised little Susie Malcolm's hand high and kissed it.

The startled fourth grader stared at the back of her hand a moment, then raised it to wave to the departing Mrs. Ford.