The original documents are located in Box 4, folder "Pulaski Day Parade, Buffalo, New York, October 10, 1976" of the Francis K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Digitized from Box 4 of the Frances K. Pullen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

SUGGESTED REMARKS FOR MRS. FORD :

I don't need to tell you how often President Ford has spoken of America's firm support for the aspirations for independence of the nations of Eastern Europe. You have heard him say that the United States has never conceded and never will concede their domination by the Soviet Union.

We have travelled to Poland and we admire the courage of the Polish people and have always supported the hopes of Polish Americans for freedom for their homeland.

It is the policy of the Ford Administration to use every peaceful means to assist countries in Eastern Europe to establish closer ties with America.

(-o-)

Betty Plays Conciliator Here

By RITA SMITH
Courier-Express Women's Editor

First Lady Betty Ford tried on Sunday to heal the wounds in Buffalo's Polish-American community caused by her husband's remark that Russia doesn't dominate Eastern European countries.

Mrs. Ford took time out of the Pulaski Parade in the Broadway-Fillmore Polish-American neighborhood, where she was guest of honor, to step down from the reviewing stand and answer questions from the press.

"I think he was misunderstood," she said when asked by reporters about her husband's remark made in the televised debate with Jimmy Carter last Wednesday.

"What he was really trying to express was the indomitable, free spirit of those countries. When you are over there you just can't help but feel their free spirit."

Mrs. Ford referred to the two trips she had taken to Poland with her husband when he was in the House of Representatives. She said the President "has a long record — 28 years when he was in the House — of supporting the aims and goals of the captive nations of Europe."

As for President Ford's remark, she claimed "it didn't upset me at all when I heard him say it because I realized what he was trying to say.

Press 'Misunderstood'

"I realized the press had misunderstood and were interpreting it wrong. I don't blame it on the press. I do on the heat of the debate."

The First Lady said she had received no feedback on President Ford's comment while here in Buffalo. "This is a celebration and not a day to discuss politics," she observed with a smile.

Later Mrs. Ford spoke briefly from the reviewing stand microphone to the thousands of parade spectators and marchers. Smiling broadly, she declared, "This has been one of the most exciting days for me.

"I shall always remember this day along with our trips to Poland and our many good Polish friends here in Buffalo, in the country and all over the world."

Obviously Tense

Mrs. Ford was smilling, but obviously tense and nervous when she defended her husband to the press. Her lip trembled slightly and twice she made a slip of the tongue. She referred to her husband's Democratic opponent as "President" Carter and again as "Senator" Carter. She appeared tired, though gracious and responded with an enthusiastic wave to applause and cheers directed to her.

Buffalo was her last stop on a five-day barnstorming tour that included Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver and Boulder, before arriving here from Colorado on Saturday night.

Plagued by chronic arthritis that often incapacitates her, Mrs. Ford looked at the sunshine flooding the chilly day and told this reporter, "My arthritis is beautiful today.

"When it is raining and wet it is not so hot."

She showed her sense of humor by presenting a lapel button saying "Keep Betty in the White House" to Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., when he joined her on the reviewing stand.

Despite her husband's remark, Buffalo Polish-Americans had a warm welcome for the First Lady. One young woman watching the parade, Miss Molly Maloney, 85 Kingsgate Rd., Amherst, observed, "I'd vote for her if she were running for president.

"I think she is helping her husband constantly to bring out his good points. She does a lot for America in giving her husband ideas."

Mrs. Brian Maloney of 208 Rounds Ave., delcared, "I respect Betty Ford. I like her. She is very honest and speaks her mind. She's not hiding behind something she thinks people want her to say."

Sister Ellen Marie, professor of French and history at Villa Marie College, commented, "Mrs. Ford is a great woman, but I think President Ford slipped badly in his remark. I was in Poland in '71 and the domination is there."

'I'd Vote for Her'

"I'd vote for her if she was running for president," added Mrs. Donald Paschka of 36 Smallwood Dr., West Seneca. "She does a lot for her husband."

Mrs. Ford's day in Buffalo began with Sunday morning services at 160-year-old St. Pauls' Episcopal Cathedral, a few blocks away from Hotel Statler Hilton where she had spent the night. Arriving at the cathedral, she was greeted on the steps by Episcopal Bishop Harold Robinson, in his crimson and purple robes and carrying his bishop's silver staff.

Bishop Robinson later said the First Lady impressed his as "a very quiet, soft-spoken, Christian lady who was obviously coming to the chatedral not to make one more of many public appearances nor for political reasons, but to worship God."

300 Attend Service

About 300 worshippers were in the cathedral with the First Lady. A relatively sparse group waited outside to see her arrive in her car. Impeccably, but simply dressed, Mrs. Ford wore a soft brown and white tweed dress and matching double-breasted coat with brown velour collar. Hatless, she had a blonde streak to highlight the front of her soft brown hair.

A cream silk blouse with matching ascot, brown kid bag with tortoise-shell handles and brown sandals completed her ensemble. Later for the parade, she just changed into another coat. It was a dark brown three-quarter-lenght jacket. She added a brown and beige silk scarf at the throat.

Earlier, a middle-age man and woman, carrying cameras and speaking Chinese, were turned away from the cathedral by Secret Service men screening those at the door.

BETTY
Continued on Page 12

Courier-Express/Ron Schifferle

Pulaski Parade Queen Patricia Wabick
... waves to the crowd on Broadway

Quality Auto Paint Baking, Teck Garage. TT 2-7750. —Adv.

$25 to $40 Cash for your junk car. Free towing 853-1735 or 853-5625. —Adv.

Buffalo Courier Exp. 10/11/76 7A. pg.

Betty Visits Here To Heal Wounds

★ From Page 1

From the altar, Bishop Robinson addressed her: "We understand and appreciate your need to come and worship because of the sometimes extreme difficulties and concerns that are yours as First Lady of the land.

"I assure you of our love and prayers for your strength, guidance, health, and peace of mind that only God can bring."

Later this reporter asked Mrs. Ford, an Episcopalian, how she felt about Episcopal women as priests. "I think this is a thing that has got to be worked out by the church," was her reply.

Sermon on Goals

Canon Brendan Griswold delivered the sermon, stressing the necessity for individuals to set goals in life in line with Christ's teachings.

Miss Trudy Hanmer, 27-year-old teacher at Nichols School, was among the cathedral worshippers.

"Mrs. Ford was an added incentive for me to get out of bed and come to church this morning," she said. "I like her. I have a much better feeling for her than I do for Roselynn Carter."

One of the lucky women spectators at the parade was Mrs. Patricia Buczek, 23 Olga Pl., who got an autograph from Mrs. Ford. Erie County Executive Edward V. Regan got the autograph for her from Mrs. Ford.

Kaye

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM

FROM: SUSAN PORTER

SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford will participate in the following out-of-town event:

EVENT: Pulaski Day Parade

DATE: Sunday, October 10, 1976

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Buffalo, New York

CONTACTS: Mr. Arthur Kilichowski
General Chairman, Parade Committee
716-846-8351

Mr. Thomas M. MacKinnon
Chairman
Erie County Republican Committee
O: 716-856-8700
H: 716-877-4150

COMMENTS: The annual Pulaski Day Parade in Buffalo is one of the biggest events in the Polish community and attracts about 100,000 marchers and viewers. Most participants walk in the parade to the reviewing stand. Mrs. Ford's actual participation, perhaps walking for a short distance and riding the remainder of the way to the reviewing stand, is yet to be determined.

Mrs. Ford's attendance at the parade comes with the strong recommendation of Myron Kuropas, Ed Terrell at the PFC, and Dick Rosenbaum, New York State GOP Chairman.

This event will be the fifth day of travel for Mrs. Ford. She will participate in the People for Ford Rally in Sacramento, California on October 8th. Her schedule for October 9th has yet to be determined.

Mrs. Ford will arrive in Buffalo the evening of the 9th, remain overnight and participate in the parade on the 10th, and return to Washington. The file is attached.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Myron Kuropas
William Nicholson
Jerry Jones
Terry O'Donnell
Jim Connor
Max Friedersdorf
Steve McConahey
Russell Rourke
Jim Field
Jim Baker
Stu Spencer
Elly Peterson
William Greener III
Jud Summer
Ed Terrell
Rex Scouten
Staircase

9/2 2/76

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Susan,

Mr. Arthur Kilahowsky (sp?) called. He is the General Chairman of the Pulaski Day Parade in Buffalo. We had sent a letter to a Mr. MacKinnon indicating that we were seriously considering Mrs. Ford's participation in the parade and would be in touch with him.

Mr. Kilahowsky says that all the newspapers and media people are announcing that Mrs. Ford is definitely going to participate. This is the first he has heard, other than the letter we sent to Mr. MacKinnon (who is with the Erie County Republican organization).

716-846-8351 (if Mr. Kilahowsky isn't in, you can speak w/ Mrs. Doze.)

P

Susan: 9/22

(pronounced Kilihowski)
Arthur Kilichowski, General Chairman of the Pulaski Day Parade in Buffalo.

He referred to your letter to Mr. McKinnon saying we would be in touch.

He said it is all over the radio, t.v. and newspapers that Mrs. Ford is coming.

He is anxious to know if she really is coming.

716/846-8319

or talk to Virginia Doze 846-8351

Julie

MacKinnon's home # 877-4150

BF Pending to Consider
Buffalo, New York
October 10, 1976
Annual Pulaski Day Parade

June 24, 1976

NEEDS REPLY

Dear Mr. MacKinnon,

Your gracious letter inviting Mrs. Ford to participate in the Annual Pulaski Day Parade, which was forwarded to me by Mr. Russell Rourke is greatly appreciated. Although the official schedule is planned only a few weeks in advance, we would be happy to keep your cordial invitation in mind. May we be in communication with you closer to the date?

With gratitude and warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter
Appointments Secretary
for Mrs. Ford

Mr. Thomas M. MacKinnon
Chairman
Erie County Republican Committee
275 Statler Hilton Building
Buffalo, New York 14202

SP/ph

c: BF Pending to Consider (Buffalo, New York, October 10, 1976)
Russell Rourke

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

SP Pending Domestic

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1976

TO: SUSAN PORTER

FROM: RUSSELL A. ROURKE

X For Direct Reply

_____ For Draft Response

_____ For Your Information

X Please advise

June 18, 1976

Dear Tom:

Many thanks for your letter of June 11 regarding the invitation extended to Mrs. Ford to participate in the Annual Pulaski Day Parade on Sunday, October 10.

I have been happy to contact Ms. Susan A. Porter, Appointments Secretary to Mrs. Ford. I have asked her to get in touch with you directly regarding the possibility of Mrs. Ford's acceptance.

Hope to see you sometime again real soon.

With warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

Russell A. Rourke

Mr. Thomas M. MacKinnon
Chairman
Erie County Republican Committee
275 Statler Hilton Building
Buffalo, New York 14202
cb
cc: SPorter

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

JUN 1 2 1976

Erie County
Republican Committee
275 Statler Hilton Building
Buffalo, New York 14202
Telephone (716) 856-8700

ECR

Thomas M. MacKinnon
Chairman

June 11, 1976

Mr. Russell Rourke
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Russ:

The Pulaski Day Parade Committee has asked my help in inviting Mrs. Ford to participate in and honor them with her presence at the Annual Pulaski Day Parade on Sunday, October 10, 1976 starting at 2:00 pm. This parade is one of the biggest events in the Polish community and attracts about 100,000 viewers and marchers.

I would appreciate it if you would check with Mrs. Ford's personal Secretary and let me know. If the reply is favorable, I will ask the Committee to write a formal request.

Your help is most appreciated as her presence would certainly mean a lot to the Republicans in this area.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Tom

Thomas M. MacKinnon
Chairman

TMM:v

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Buffalo

Buffalo, the second largest city in New York and one of the most important industrial centers on the Great Lakes, has financial problems and high unemployment. The city is one of the Nation's leading steel producers and grain millers.

The city has a black population of 21 percent and an ethnic population of 28 percent. The two largest ethnic groups are the Poles and the Italians. The mix of blacks and ethnics has produced racial tensions. The city also has a large Catholic population.

Buffalo teachers recently went back to the classroom after a four-week strike, which delayed implementation of a school desegregation plan. There is busing, and it is not being well-received.

One of the major reasons for Buffalo's financial problems is a heavy welfare load. The city is trying legal methods to try to get more state and federal money to help with welfare. The welfare tally also includes the unemployment payments.

Politics

Senator Jim Buckley is trying for a second term against Patrick Moynihan, who won a hotly contested Democratic primary. This is a tight race with Moynihan favored. The attached article tells about a recent Moynihan incident in Buffalo.

Four Congressional districts involve sections of Buffalo. The 36th includes Niagara Falls and parts of suburb Erie County and a few blocks of Buffalo. The District, formerly represented by Republican Henry Smith, is considered a basically Republican area, but the Democratic incumbent, John LaFalce won comfortably in 1974. Dr. Ralph Argen, an internist, is the Republican candidate. He has raised lots of money, is considered a good candidate, and may have a good chance of defeating LaFalce.

The 37th is the main Buffalo district, and it is heavily Democratic. The incumbent, Henry Nowak, was first

elected like LaFalce in 1974. Since the district even voted for McGovern, he's a solid favorite to be re-elected. His GOP opponent, Calvin Kimbrough, is a black, who works in a Federal training program.

The 38th, which is primarily suburban Erie County, is Jack Kemp's district. He made the best showing of any Republican in New York State in 1974, and is not expected to have problems with his Democratic opponent.

The 39th, formerly Republican Jim Hastings' district, is now represented by Stanley Lundeen, who won the special in March, 1976. Lundeen isn't expected to have problems defeating his young GOP opponent, Richard Snowden, an insurance agent.

Carter had a noticeably cool reception in Buffalo recently despite the unemployment problem. A recent poll in the Buffalo newspaper showed the President within two percentage points of Carter!

-0-

The Moynihan-Buckley Contest

SYRACUSE—As Daniel Patrick Moynihan was stilling a gossipy crowd of Democrats at a highly successful fundraiser in the Syracuse Hotel here last Wednesday, a leading Democratic officeholder whispered to his companion:

"Pat's got it locked up—unless he makes another bad boo-boo."

Moynihan squeaked out a primary election win on Sept. 14 without a single bad boo-boo. But three days later in Buffalo—the most heavily unionized city in heavily unionized New York State—he committed a costly blunder, declaring that teachers and other municipal employees not charged with protecting the public safety should have the right to strike.

That response infuriated heavily Democratic Buffalo, whose loyalties in the embittered teachers' strike were strongly against the strike (illegal to begin with under the state's Taylor Law). Thus, Moynihan made a grave misjudgment in his Senate campaign against Sen. James Buckley, the Conservative-Republican incumbent.

Running as an old-fashioned Democratic liberal on bread-and-butter issues, he forgot that most municipal unions are viewed even by labor-oriented Democrats as tax-devouring evils, a switch in political thinking that has converted tax-paid unions with swollen pension plans and extravagant fringe benefits into a social issue with highly negative ramifications.

Moynihan's Buffalo boo-boo last month had its predictable result last week: A poll by the Buffalo Evening News that showed Buckley actually leading Moynihan by 4 percentage points in the most Democratic upstate city. This Moynihan deficit is almost certain to be reversed well before the Nov. 2 election, but it points directly to the battle of strategies in perhaps the single most important Senate race in the nation: Catholic Moynihan striving to exploit the bread-and-butter issues of jobs and unemployment and to capture ethnic Catholics and blue-collar workers; Catholic Buckley seeking support on social issues like abortion and gun control from these same Catholic ethnics.

Thus, the way the Buffalo teachers' strike backfired on Moynihan symbolized the campaign of conflicting strategies. The campaign is dramatized further by stark differences in personality between flamboyant, gregarious Moynihan, the towering Harvard professor, diplomat and one-time Nixon staffer, and Buckley, shy and diffident.

Indeed, the campaign performance of Buckley (who was elected in 1970 with only 39 per cent of the vote in a three-way contest) may test whether post-Watergate disillusion with politics and politicians now puts a premium on candidates who refuse to act like candidates.

Campaigning in the old Brooklyn Navy Yard one day last week, Buckley shyly declined to be prodded into saying a few words to several hundred construction workers in a new tanker-building operation that owes its very existence to government loans that Buckley himself made possible several years ago.

"Jim is a helluva guy," a top officer of the tanker firm told us, "and a terrible politician."

The tour of what used to be the Brooklyn Navy Yard followed a long and acerbic question-and-answer session with elderly Brooklyn Jews at the William and Anna Blanksteen Community House. A hint of what was to come was discernible in his introduction as a senator "who many here don't agree with, so please use this opportunity to tell him."

Minutes later Buckley was attacked by an angry woman for his opposition to the first proposal of federal aid to New York City last year. "How can we send you back to the Senate?" she said. "How do you justify coming and asking us to send you back?"

Buckley refused the usual refuge of politicians caught by angry constituents. Instead of excuses, he attacked "clubhouse politics" in New York City as the cause of bankruptcy, meaning sweetheart labor contracts between politicians (most of them Democrats) and the municipal unions. The remedy was discipline, not money.

Such seemingly suicidal backtalk to voters is a major part of Buckley's strategy, and carries the deliberate implication that Moynihan (invariably called "Professor Moynihan" by Buckley) is a gregarious trimmer who says what he thinks the voters want to hear. Few politicians think Buckley can carry it off, and they are probably right—if Pat Moynihan commits no more bad boo-boos before Nov. 2.

©1976, Field Enterprises, Inc.

Background on Pulaski Parade

Casimir Pulaski, a Polish cavalry officer, was under thirty when Benjamin Franklin advanced him funds to sail to America. Pulaski was given the top cavalry command under General Benjamin Lincoln in the Southern Campaign. He was killed while charging British lines at the head of his troops before the battle of Savannah in 1779.

Pulaski is honored by one of the four corner statues in Lafayette Square along with Thaddeus Kosciuszko, another Polish officer who served with great distinction in the American Revolution.

-0-

OCTOBER 7, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

EXCERPT FROM THE PRESIDENT REMARKS TO THE VOTERS CONVOCATION - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Last night in the Debate I spoke of America's firm support for the aspirations for independence of the nations of Eastern Europe. The United States has never conceded and never will concede their domination by the Soviet Union.

I admire the courage of the Polish people and have always supported the hopes of Polish Americans for freedom for their ancestral homeland.

It is our policy to use every peaceful means to assist countries in Eastern Europe in their efforts to become less dependent on the Soviet Union and to establish closer ties with the West.

I am very much aware of the present plight of the Eastern European nations and, as I declared in this year's Captive Nations Proclamation:

> "The United States supports the aspirations for freedom, independence, and national self-determination of all peoples. We do not accept foreign domination over any nation."

# # #