

The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/25/76 - Radio and Television Correspondents' Dinner” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Nancy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 19, 1976



MEMORANDUM TO:

RED CAVANEY
PETER SORUM

FROM:

SUSAN PORTER

SUBJECT:

Mrs. Ford Attendance at the Radio and TV
Correspondent's Dinner (Fay Wells),
Washington Hilton Hotel, March 26th

Mrs. Ford will attend the Radio and TV Correspondent's Dinner as a guest of Fay Wells of Storer Broadcasting Company. Mrs. Ford has attended this dinner as Fay's guest for many years and has been very fond of Fay through the years. She will travel to the dinner with the President (the cocktail period is 6:30-8:00 in the Georgetown Suite). Mrs. Ford then will break from the President and will join Fay and her guests in the Jefferson Room for dinner (I understand the President will be eating in the Ballroom). Entertainment in the Jefferson Room will follow the dinner. Nightcaps in the Georgetown Suite will conclude the evening.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff
William Nicholson
Ron Nessen
Mildred Leonard
Rex Scouten
Staircase

FAY GILLIS WELLS
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Dear Susan -

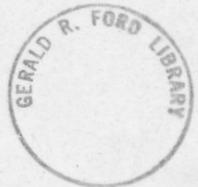
Laughed Mrs. Ford - would
be interested in this clipping from

1965 - -

Little did she realize that
what "bucier" could really mean -

See you on the 25th -

Love
Fay



Betty Darling -

We are looking forward
to seeing you, March 25. Is the
President going to bring you
a pitch you up after the dinner?

I thought you would be
interested in the enclosed
clipping I found in my files
dated 1/5/65.

Love and Jim
Fay



'We Can't Be Much Busier'

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

1/5/68

Betty Ford Paces as Husband Wins



NEW HOUSE LEADER—Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.), who was elected House Minority Leader yesterday, is shown with his wife, Betty, dressed to attend a formal dinner recently. A former model and student of the dance, Mrs. Ford is now the mother of four children—three boys and a girl.

By Marie Smith
Washington Post Staff Writer

BLOND BLUE-EYED Betty Ford, a former Powers' model, was pacing the floor in her husband's office when House Republicans yesterday elected Rep. Gerald R. Ford, a 51-year-old former football star at the University of Michigan, as their new leader.

It was 25 minutes to 12 when the telephone in the office rang, bringing the news of his victory in the race that she admits was "so close it could have gone either way."

"I had a strange feeling because a great deal of responsibility goes with the job. But we've always been busy and we can't be much busier," she mused as she faced the question of what the new job may mean in their lives.

Mrs. Ford, was in the gallery to watch the opening of the new session and see her husband occupy the seat that has been filled for the last six years by Indiana's Rep. Charles Halleck.

After the first order of business was over — and members were sworn in and the speaker of the House elected — her blond, handsome husband looked up to her in the gallery and motioned for her to come down. She said "I went out and tore downstairs and was

rushing so hard I almost knocked him down as I turned a corner. He was coming to greet me. It was wonderful to congratulate him."

His victory was something they had both wanted but they didn't count on it too much or make too much over it so there would be no disappointment if he failed.

THOUGH THE occasion might have called for a special luncheon to celebrate, there couldn't be one because Gerry Ford had to go back to the floor to his leadership duties, so Betty went back to his office alone.

She ordered a hamburger and glass of milk for lunch and ate it alone at his desk. But they planned their celebration for last night.

"He promised to take me out to dinner before the night session," she smiled.

"I'm glad he got it, I'm glad for him," she said. "He's got a great deal of energy, you can't tire him out, and he has a great deal of patience."

The Fords came back from an eight day skiing vacation in Michigan to face what yesterday might bring them.

The vacation, she said, "was something we had promised the children. So we went right ahead with it," she said.

THE FORDS, who have four children age 7 to 14, bring an attractive, young look to the Republican Party leadership.

And she is willing to share the added responsibilities he has acquired.

Betty Ford likes politics and knew what she was getting into when she married her hometown sweetheart. They were married in October 1948, and he was first elected to the House in November 1948.

"I helped him in the primary before we were married. I was working (as fashion coordinator at Herpolshheimers in Grand Rapids) but worked nights mailing campaign literature. After we were married, I campaigned with him and have helped him every time since."

She recalled that, because of politics, they did not even have a honeymoon. "We planned the wedding on Friday so he could take me to Ann Arbor to a football game on Saturday, and then to hear Tom Dewey make his opening blast in Ossowa that night. Then we drove to Detroit to spend Sunday by ourselves."

For several years after they came to Washington, Betty would come to her husband's office on Saturday and Sunday and do his

See FORD, A17, Col. 7

Politics Delayed Their Honeymoon

filing. "If I wanted to be with him, I had to come to the office because he worked every day," she said.

The Fords now live in Alexandria in an Early American style brick and white clapboard house they built 10 years ago near Episcopal Seminary.

BETTY FORD, who studied modern dancing at Bennington College in Vermont under the direction of Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman, had early ambitions of becoming a dancer.

But after two years in New York, where she appeared at Carnegie Hall with the Martha Graham concert group and did a great deal of fashion and photography modeling for John Robert Powers, her mother persuaded her to return home to Grand Rapids.

There she soon began teaching dancing and working as a fashion director and then met Gerry Ford, a rising young lawyer.

Mrs. Ford likes to entertain, especially at informal buffets at home for 12 to 14 people.

Her wardrobe reflects her good taste in clothes but she admits she doesn't like to shop for something special but to buy what she likes when she sees it and then save it for the right occasion.

IF SHE GOES to the Inaugural Ball, she plans to wear a dress already in her wardrobe. It is turquoise blue peau de soie satin with a satin full length stole.

She bought it on a visit to New York some time ago,

and her husband picked it out for her.

She and her husband like to dance, and since she has given up golf, he plays golf and tennis with their children. There is no longer time for football games except for the Little League variety when their boys play.

"Gerry will postpone catching a plane to Michigan until the last minute to go to a game with the children. He tries to be with the children as much as possible."

BETTY FORD is active in the Republican Wives Club, the Congressional Club and the International Wives Group. She and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson are members of the same International Wives Group and have visited in each other's home.

Gardening is Betty's hobby, next to her family.

She devotes the majority of her time to her children, Mike, 14, Jack, 12, Steve, 8, and Susan 7.

FRANK R. **JELLEFF'S**

5'5"
or under?

See our
**KORELL
FASHION
SHOW**

THURSDAY

3 p.m.
7 p.m.
Fifth floor.



February 23, 1976

Dear Fay,

Just a note to say I have March 25th circled on my calendar. I look forward to joining you and I will personally keep an eye on the President's pipe!

With affectionate best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linton Wells
2601 Woodley Place, Northwest
Apartment 912
Washington, D. C. 20008



SP/82

c: ✓ BF Accepted Pending (March 25, 1976)

REGRET
MAR. 25



Washington News Bureau
Suite 601, 1725 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006
(202) 331-9884

January 17, 1976

FAY GILLIS WELLS
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Betty Darling:

It's Radio-TV dinner time again - Thursday March 25, to be exact. And I hope you will be able to be with us, in person, this year. It was fun to talk to you by telephone and have the President drop by to express your personal disappointment, but this year we hope there will be no regrets, only the pleasure of your presence.

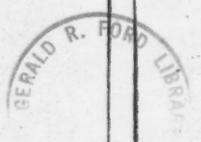
As usual, the Storer Cocktail party will be in the Georgetown Suite, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, beginning at 6:15 to 7:45; the Ladies dinner to be held next door, in the Jefferson Room, at 8pm, to be followed by the rendezvous back in the Georgetown Suite after the dinners. And, as usual, it will be a gathering of old friends, sparked a few new faces. Anne Richardson will be back after her sojourn in London. But this time as Mrs. Secretary of Commerce.

Lint is making progress after his second broken hip - he is one of the few people who can boast of matching hip scars.

He joins me in sending his regards to you and President Ford.

*In the spirit of '76 let
it begin with me — love
Fay*

*P.S. Will have a
telephone in case
someone forgets this
page.*



Fay Gillis Wells
Linton Wells
2601 Woodley Place, NW (912)
Washington, D. C. 20008

NC

3/23/76
4:00 pm

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

THE PRESIDENT & MRS. FORD'S ATTENDANCE
AT THE RADIO AND TELEVISION
CORRESPONDENT'S DINNER

Washington Hilton Hotel
Thursday, March 25, 1976
Attire: Black Tie



9:40
7:55 pm

The President and Mrs. Ford board motorcade on South Grounds.

MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route Washington Hilton Hotel.

[Driving time: 10 minutes]

8:05 pm

MOTORCADE ARRIVES Washington Hilton Hotel.

The President & Mrs. Ford will be met by:
Mr. Earl McDonough, Washington Hilton Hotel
General Manager
Mr. Robert Foster, Radio & Television
Correspondents Association in-coming
President

OFFICIAL PHOTO COVERAGE

The President and Mrs. Ford, escorted by Mr. Foster, proceed to the Jefferson West Room.

8:10 pm

The President and Mrs. Ford arrive Jefferson West Room where Mrs. Ford proceeds inside to join guests at Storer Broadcasting Company Dinner.

8:11 pm

The President, escorted by Mr. Foster, proceeds to off-stage announcement area and pauses for announcement.

8:15 pm "Ruffles & Flourishes"
Announcement
"Hail to the Chief"

8:15 pm The President, escorted by Mr. Foster, enters Grand Ballroom and proceeds up center aisle to head table.

OFFICIAL PHOTO COVERAGE
ATTENDANCE: 1,100

8:18 pm The President, escorted by Mr. Foster, arrives head table and takes his seat.

8:20 pm Welcome by Association President Bill Greenwood.

8:22 pm Toast to the President by Mr. Greenwood.

8:23 pm National Anthem by the Marine Band.

8:26 pm Marine Hymn by the Marine Band.

8:30 pm Dinner is served.

9:45 pm Dinner concludes.

9:46 pm Remarks by Mr. Greenwood.

9:50 pm Comedy routine by Chevy Chase.

10:05 pm Musical performance by "Up with People."

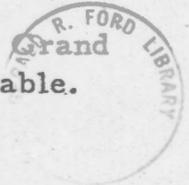
10:35 pm Introduction of the President by Chevy Chase.

10:40 pm Presidential remarks.

OFFICIAL PHOTO COVERAGE

10:50 pm Remarks conclude.

The President returns to his seat.



- 10:51 pm Mr. Greenwood thanks the President and turns gavel over to Mr. Foster.
- 10:53 pm Mr. Foster takes gavel and thanks the President for attending.
- 10:55 pm The President departs head table en route Cabinet Room to join Mrs. Ford.
- 10:58 pm The President and Mrs. Ford depart Cabinet Room en route motorcade for boarding.
- 11:00 pm MOTORCADE DEPARTS Washington Hilton Hotel en route South Grounds.
- [Driving time: 10 minutes]
- 11:10 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.

