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Gerald Ford's son Steve, 19, learns to ride the range—something his father did as a teen-ager. Like all the

President's children, Steve doesn't hesitate to express his own opinions, even when they differ with Dad's.

The Ford Children: One Year in the Limelight

by Charles Peterson

RAMONA, CAL.

In 13 days the Ford children will mark their first anniversary as members of America's First Family. Under careful scrutiny by press and public for one year, the four Fords have remained remarkably unspoiled, informal, humorous, well-mannered, straightforward, in

wherever strip mining is done in this country the land is returned to its natural state. A lot of environmental regulations are being overlooked, and in 15 years people are going to regret it."

Following his graduation from T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va., last year, Steve took a year off, a

in Ramona under Casey Tibbs—he's a rodeo champion—learning how to ride a bronco, wrestle a steer, and rope a calf.

"And I must say," he adds, "that being a cowboy, working for somebody, on someone else's ranch—that sort of life appeals to me, because there's a lot

of freedom, a lot of happiness in it. At this stage in my life, money doesn't mean very much to me. I figure that so long as you're doing what you want to do, money is not a concern. My mother has second thoughts about my cowboy-in', but that's the way all mothers are."

How does his father, the President, feel about his cowboy ambitions? "He lets me do what I want to," Steve confirms. "He's open-minded about it. So long as he figures I'm headed in the right direction, it's okay with him. He'll let me know if he thinks I'm going wrong, but he gives me the opportunity to get out on my own and do what I think is right."

Parents set curfew

Betty and Gerald Ford reared their children to learn by doing. Jack Ford, 23, who is spending the summer in Washington before hitting the campaign trail for his father this fall, has worked as a hotel bellhop, deckhand on a freighter, forest ranger, and U.S. Senate page.

He recalls that his parents, especially his mother, were never over-permissive and that when the children began dating, they had curfew hours to meet. If they broke them, they were punished.

Michael, 25, the eldest and the only married child, is completing his final year at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass.

Has their First Family status changed the Ford children very much?

According to friends, only Susan has been considerably affected by the White House environment.

Her ex-boyfriend, Gardner Britt, who is attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute this summer to improve his grades, says, "Susan bears the brunt of it because she's living at home. I think if she were a little older she wouldn't be so affected by all the Presidential trappings."

"We broke up, you know, because Susan said she wanted to be free in order to take advantage of being the

WILLIAM W. IRWIN
3890 LAKE DRIVE
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
49506

*Pres.
family
for filing*

May 13, 1975

Mr. Philip W. Buchen
The White House
West Wing Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Phil:

Just a note to say it was a real pleasure to see you
Thursday morning. The time that Bill Bloomer and I
spent at the Capitol Building was very much worth while.

I do want to thank you and please pass on to your secretary,
Eva Daughtrey, my thanks to her for the assistance given.

With best regards, I remain,

Bill

William W. Irwin

WWI/smc



*Pres. Ford
Family*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1975

Dear Mrs. Warnke:

On behalf of the President, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 15, 1975, concerning Leland S. Cuddington. Despite any contrary representation, Leland Cuddington is not President Ford's nephew.

Your kind words of support and encouragement are very much appreciated.

Most sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. W. Warnke
Bookkeeper
Jean and Trox, Inc.
P. O. Box 610
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001



Jean and Trox, Inc.



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May 15, 1975

Gerald Ford
White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President

IN RE:Leland S. Cuddington

This person, when applying for credit at our store, used your name as a credit reference, stating you were his uncle.

He has since left the area owing the company \$250.22. It is store policy to contact all references used when trying to locate a skip.

Any help you can give us concerning the whereabouts of Leland S. Cuddington will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

M. Warnke

Mrs. W. Warnke
Bookkeeper

P.S. The entire crew at our stores are in complete accord with your recent foreign action. Keep up the good work.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 26, 1975

*Ford,
James F.
(family)*

Dear Jim:

Many thanks for your suggestion to supply you, Tom, Dick and your families with copies of the White House regulations concerning acceptance of gifts by members of the President's staff. A copy is enclosed with this letter and with each duplicate letter.

These regulations do not by their terms apply to the President and, of course, do not apply to you or others in the family. However, general adherence to the spirit of these regulations would avoid any risk of criticism by the ever-critical media.

I was indeed sorry about the situation in connection with the Braniff dedication of its Calder plane. When the matter was brought to our office earlier, the proposal presented to us was to involve only Betty who had been invited to perform a limited ceremonial function and who would not be involved in receiving any benefits from the airline. I had no realization that Braniff had approached you and the others in the family or that it had even approached Mrs. Seidman. Only on Friday night did I learn of these developments and received advice that the press would probably note the involvement of the family in a charter flight paid for by Braniff. I immediately tried, but unsuccessfully, to reach someone in the family, and it was only on Saturday that I was able to reach Ellen who seemed relieved at having an excuse not to become involved. She also indicated that she would talk to the rest of the family, and at the same time through Sally Seidman I was able



to suggest that Mrs. Frank Seidman not make the trip.

If at any time you or any of the other family members have questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Dr. James F. Ford
Optometrist
2504 Ardmore, S. E.
Village Professional Building
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

cc: Mr. Thomas Ford
Mr. Richard Ford

Attachment



Gifts Between Staff Members and Acceptance of Other Gifts

Federal statutes prohibit the acceptance of gifts from fellow employees of a lesser pay status. The solicitation of contributions for a Christmas gift for an employee in a superior official position is also prohibited by statute, as is the giving of such a gift or donation. However, these laws have not been interpreted to preclude the traditional exchange of gifts of nominal value between co-workers within an office.

As a member of the White House Staff you are expressly prohibited from soliciting or accepting gifts from corporations or persons (1) who have or are seeking contractual agreements with any Executive department or agency, (2) who engage in activities regulated by Executive departments or agencies, or (3) who have any interests which may be substantially affected by the performance of your job. This latter group includes federal employees as well as persons in the private sector.

The foregoing does not preclude your acceptance of unsolicited advertising or promotional items such as pens, note pads, calendars, etc., so long as they are of nominal value (\$10 or less). Similarly, you are not prohibited from accepting reasonable gifts, promotional or otherwise, from close personal friends or relatives who have dealings with the government, when it is clear that the motivation for the gift is the personal relationship and acceptance would not give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Additionally, present law prohibits the acceptance of gifts in excess of \$50 (retail value in U.S.) from representatives of foreign governments except with the express consent of Congress. Any such gift which cannot appropriately be refused shall be submitted to the office of the Counsel to the President (Room 106, EOB) for transmittal to the Department of State.

Any prohibited gift should be returned to the donor along with a letter, a copy of which should be retained for your files, stating the reasons for its return. If for any reason it is not possible to return the gift, please forward it to the office of the Counsel to the President (Room 106, EOB) along with a letter of explanation. The gift will then be turned over to a public charity or charitable institution.

The rationale for the foregoing restrictions is two-fold. First, as between members of the Staff, they remove any appearance that a person is at-

tempting to gain favor with a superior by the giving of a gift, and also resolve that no such gift is expected. Second, as to gifts that might be offered from those outside the White House, they protect you as a member of the Staff from being thrust into a position of conflict with your job, or more often, from being exposed to the appearance of such a conflict.

Invitations to Official White House Functions

You may occasionally wish to suggest that someone be invited to an official activity at the White House. You may do so by completing the form shown at Enclosure A-3 and sending it to the Social Secretary.

Insurance

For information or questions regarding group life insurance or health insurance coverage, call the Personnel Office, Ext. 2260.

Leave

For information or questions regarding leave regulations or leave records of those on White House rolls, call the Payroll Section, Ext. 2220. Leave accrual for those subject to the Leave Act is as follows:

Sick Leave

All government employees accumulate the same sick leave credit—13 days annually at the rate of 4 hours per pay period.

Annual Leave

The rate of annual leave accrual is based on the individual's aggregate amount of creditable service. For the first 3 years of service, all employees earn 13 days annually, at the rate of 4 hours per pay period. From 3 to 15 years service, 20 days are earned at the rate of 6 hours each pay period. Beyond 15 years, 26 days are earned at the rate of 8 hours each pay period.

Legal Matters

You should consult the Office of the Counsel to the President on all legal matters related to the performance of your official duties. Examples of such matters include:

- (a) Questions of interpretation of statutes, Executive Orders, and administrative rules and regulations.

DR. JAMES F. FORD
OPTOMETRIST
2504 ARDMORE S. E.
VILLAGE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. 49506
—
TELEPHONE 949-2581

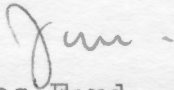
November 19, 1975

Mr. Phil Buchen
White House Counsel
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Phil,

It might be an excellent idea to supply the brothers and their families with White House Gift Guide Lines so we might avoid any future embarrassing situations.

Thank you.


James Ford

JF/cs

