

The original documents are located in Box 135, folder “Undated - Interview with Janet Staihar, Associated Press” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM JANET STAIHAR, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Q - In your appearances across the country, many seem to view you as a future President. Have you warmed up to the idea yet?

A - No, my feelings have not changed. I am not, and do not intend to be, a candidate in 1976.

Q - Has your family?

A - No.

Q - Do you find the idea repulsive?

A - No---just out of the foreseeable realm.

Q - Are you criss-crossing the country making speeches for the sake of the White House, or to save the GOP Party, or to salvage the elections this fall? What makes Ford run?

A - There are a number of factors which enter into my travels and speeches. I believe the President is innocent of any impeachable offense, on the evidence I have seen, and I believe it my responsibility to say so. I also believe that as an official of the Nixon Administration I should do all I can to speak out for its policies, foreign and domestic, of which I approve. I see no reason to sit silently in the Executive Office Building. I believe it is my duty to get out and talk to and with the American people. I also believe in the two-party system and in the necessity for a balance in government. And I believe in the basic principles of the Republican Party. As minority leader, I spoke wherever I could for Republican candidates of the House. Now, as Vice President, I plan to speak as much as I can for Republican candidates for the House and Senate. In addition, I receive many invitations to speak at non-partisan functions, and I try to fulfill those for which I can find time. Altogether, I am receiving some 500 invitations a week. So you can see I can accept only a small part of the speaking opportunities offered, whether political, or non-political.

Q - Maryland Governor Agnew did not look like a Vice President, but all of a sudden when he got the job, he looked like a Vice President. Mr. Ford, I don't think you particularly looked vice-president-like as a congressman, but now you do. What is there about the job that men seem all of a sudden to transform themselves?

A - Perhaps it is not that so much. Perhaps Vice Presidential appearance lies in the eye of the beholder.

Q - Has "power" something to do with it?

A - "Power" is a word rather unfamiliar to a Vice President, since he has very little power.

Q - Your personal appearance is classier, for one thing. Did somebody redo your wardrobe?

A - No. I buy my own suits and shirts. Perhaps the new styles or fabrics have made a difference noticeable to you.

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What makes Ford run ?

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Q--Has ~~power~~ "power" something to do with it?

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