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filed 10/2/75
October 4, 1974

Dear Mr President -

Thank you for your letter.
You are most kind, with all
your burdens, to take time to
tell me that I helped a little
this week. I hoped to.

Please tell your dear
wife of my love and admir-
ation. She has been absolutely
splendid. I just hope she
understands that his only
obligation is to get well.

I so much appreciate your
writing. I know you write with your
left hand, which to me looks
terribly difficult and makes

Your letter especially
touching and valuable
to me.

Most Respectfully
Mary The Grove

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/2/74

Dear Mary:

On the way out to the hospital last night I read the very kind and most thoughtful column on Betty - you said everything so beautifully and I am extremely grateful. Betty gives me in appreciation.

In our hours of very personal distress, generous and sympathetic words are a tremendous help. Betty is doing magnificently in every way and you have contributed importantly with your thoughtfulness.

Our whole family thanks you.

With personal appreciation.

Love
J. Ford

THE WHITE HOUSE

Miss Mary Mc. Army

Mrs. Ford Deserves a Lit

By Mary McGrory
Star-News Staff Writer

Mrs. Ford's sudden, awful illness has made us a family, something we haven't been in a long time. We all would like to take her hand and tell her we wish it hadn't happened.

She isn't First Lady now. She's every woman who has had the operation that women dread most, radical mastectomy, the ugly name for the ugly fact of breast-removal. Gerald Ford, the leader of the Western world, is just an anxious lonely husband.

When the woman of the house is away — if it's the Executive Mansion or a housing project — the house is empty.

Everybody sat in the hospital waiting room last Saturday morning. The news they heard turned the whole country pale. It was cancer.

What makes Mrs. Ford's experience so poignant is that it struck her when she

was beginning to flower a little. She never wanted her husband to be president — her ambition is to go back to Grand Rapids. Ford's remark that he would let Betty decide if he should run in 1976 tells the story. It was the best comfort he could offer.

She had not looked forward to the White House, obviously. Her face, the day he was sworn in, was tense and strained. But like some other retiring women, she found that life there is bearable, and offers a measure of control undreamed of outside.

All of life's little worries are ironed out by the perfect servants. For a woman, particularly one like Mrs. Ford who was in her younger days a fashion model, it makes a difference that she doesn't have to dash to the hairdresser — he makes house calls. Clothes are brought to her. Schedules are presented. She can say yes or no. She's never late. Social events begin when she arrives.

She saw her husband probably more in

Point of V

the last seven weeks than in her married life — no more visits for telephone calls from the White House in Sioux City or the rally in Des Moines was right there, a floor below the White House. An essential part of the picture of being pulled apart by duty versus politics, her life together.

Before she married Ford, a friend told her that she would never have a marriage if she could record the fact that politics would be the marriage second. Mrs. Ford has accepted that hard truth on her own account, she had a thin

She had almost the whole of bringing up four children and a girl. She felt overwhelmed and developed a pinched nerve.

CANCER

Continued from Page A-1

By contrast, the 10-year recurrence rate among women who have no positive nodes when they are operated on is only 24 percent, Fisher said.

The same data was presented in a somewhat different way by Dr. Paul P. Carbone, deputy clinical director at the NCI. Again based on national statistics, Carbone reported that in women with one, two or three positive nodes half have a recurrence within five years after initial surgery and 37 percent within only three years.

And if four or more positive nodes are found at the time of surgery, he added, the average lapse of time before clear reappearance of cancer is just 18 months.

Despite the presentation of these admittedly chilling figures, scientists at the meeting had somewhat encouraging news both for Mrs. Ford and the some 90,000 other American women who are found each

that it may help older breast cancer patients like Mrs. Ford as well.

● That the drug which is taken five days once every six weeks for two years is inexpensive and differs from many anti-tumor drugs in that it has little toxicity, does not require hospitalization, or cause the patient to lose her hair or fingernails.

● That L-Pam is probably only the beginning of better drug treatments for breast cancer and that studies of further drugs — either in combination with L-Pam or in other combinations — have now been undertaken or planned.

● That tall, heavy women, who seem to have particularly high rates of breast cancer, can probably lessen the risk of developing the disease by watching their weight.

● That methods have been devised to determine whether cancer cells removed at surgery carry receptors on their surfaces

yesterday, are among the factors that have caused breast-cancer experts to question whether the type of surgery her doctors chose for Mrs. Ford is necessarily the best. In that surgery, which has been the most often performed for breast cancer for the last 100 years, the patient's breast, breast muscle and armpit lymph nodes are removed in what is called a radical mastectomy.

In this connection, Dr. Fisher reported that a study of some 1,700 women at 34 medical centers suggests that the radical operation is no more effective in preventing recurrence than simple mastectomy in which only the breast is removed or simple mastectomy with radiation treatment afterwards.

FISHER STRESSED, however, that further studies and longer experi-



Mrs. Ford Deserves a Little Peace

Point of View

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She saw her husband probably more in

the last seven weeks than in 25 years of married life — no more waiting around for telephone calls from the banquet hall in Sioux City or the rally in Westport. He was right there, a floor below. She was an essential part of the picture. After years of being pulled apart by demands of family versus politics, her life had come together.

Before she married Ford, a mutual friend told her that she would have a good marriage if she could reconcile herself to the fact that politics would come first and the marriage second. Mrs. Ford seems to have accepted that hard truth, but by her own account, she had a thin time of it.

She had almost the whole responsibility of bringing up four children, three boys and a girl. She felt overwhelmed by it. She developed a pinched nerve. She consulted

a psychiatrist

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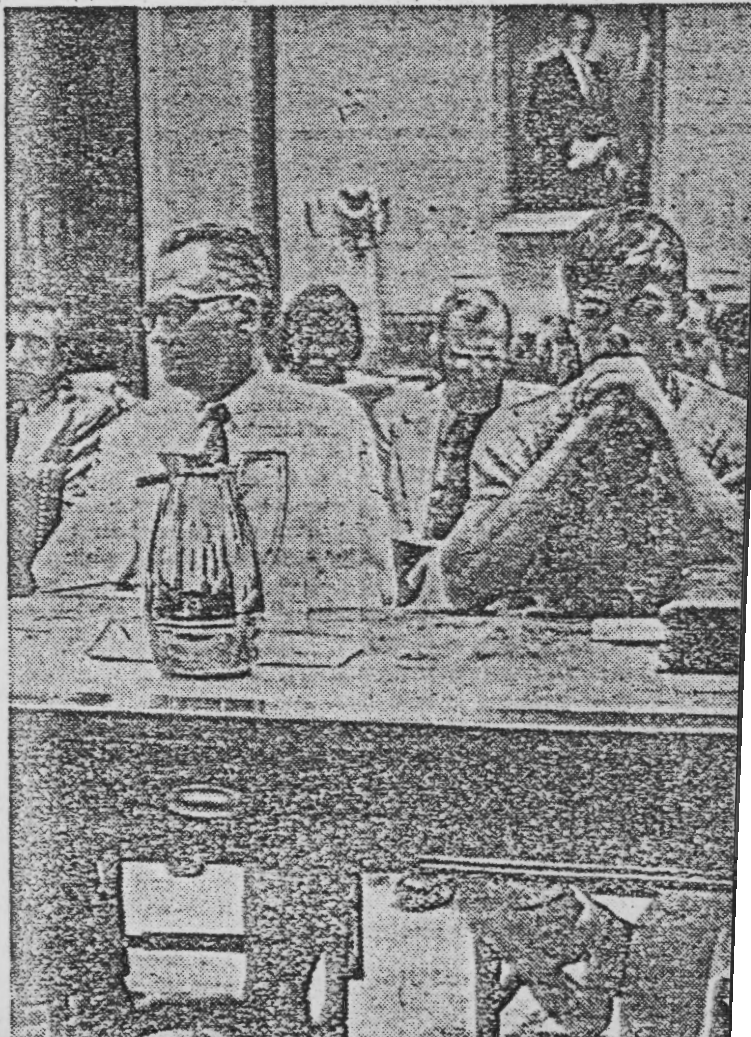
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McGRORY

Little Peace and Privacy

nt of View

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a psychiatrist, took tranquilizers Characteristically, she made no bones about it.

In the White House, she found that people wanted to know what she thought about things. As "just a wife," she had seldom been consulted. Her part was to nod and smile on the platform and murmur inanities to interviewers. Her first press conference was rather uneasy, but proved she had her own ideas. She was open with the press. She told about her husband's conversation with San Clemente.

She plainly took to the social life.

After all those years of tripping over tricycles, wiping noses and driving carpools, this pleasant unassuming woman obviously enjoyed being dressed to the nines and dancing with heads of state. She was coming into her own.

Last Thursday, she went to the doctor, dutifully, for a routine check-up. He found the lump. She carried on. Friday, she made her rounds—the Lyndon Johnson

Grove dedication, the Salvation Army fashion luncheon. Saturday, very game, she was taken to surgery, and ever since the world has been immersed in clinical detail about her case. She may even be philosophical about that. It seems a bit much.

People say that since it's the First Lady, we have the right to know, but do we? What about her right to privacy? She's not president. Could we leave her alone and let her regroup in her own way? Maybe she will in time want to talk about her experience, to alert or encourage other women. Right now, she deserves a little peace. We're always ransacking our First Family's lives for "humanizing" data. A cancer operation does not require that treatment.

Her husband says we should send contributions to the American Cancer Society. It seems the best way to express our sympathy.

Pit Dogs Arouse Pity in Congress

By Bruce Howard
Star-News Staff Writer

"She's fine with humans," said Edward Blotzer, an officer with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as he pointed to Lady, a 4-year-old Staffordshire Terrier who was wandering freely among the persons seated in the congressional hearing room yesterday.

"But bring in an animal and she'll tear it to shreds. She's been trained from birth to destroy," Blotzer said of the dog, which still bore the scars he said she received in an organized pit dogfight in Pennsylvania.

Blotzer and representatives of other humane societies across the nation appeared before the House Agriculture subcommittee on livestock and grain to testify on an increasing number of dogfights that one congressman described as the "cruellest, most disgusting display imaginable." The subcommittee is considering a proposal sponsored by Rep. Thomas Foley, D-Wash., to make attending a dogfight a federal crime punishable by a \$1,000 fine



"Lady" shows her scars.

"HIS BODY and head were scratched and swollen and his eyes were infected," Mrs. McNeill said. The society confiscated the dog and had it treated.

Mrs. McNeill said the humane society is also investigating several reported dogfights in the District and Maryland recently. Most of the fights were set up by youths, she said, and involved little or no gambling. But she said the society is investigating at

