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Jack - Washington Post - Sunday, April 20, 1975

\* Attached article says it all! R.



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*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

# Reagan 13, Ford 0

President Ford's top political advisers were issued a private warning last week calculated to shatter the pollyanna climate at the White House: Under today's conditions, Ronald Reagan would sweep delegates from the 13 southern and border states against Gerald R. Ford in a race for the Republican nomination.

That assessment came from the Republican chairmen of those 13 states, meeting secretly at the Sheraton

*"Under today's conditions, Ronald Reagan would sweep delegates from the 13 southern and border states against Gerald R. Ford."*

These results were presented to the field flared up at that as casting as-

(PLO), in Israel's own interest and long-run security.

The Percy report, to be submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee soon, also warns Israel — in carefully temperate language — that it must exhibit more flexibility in negotiating with the Arabs or risk losing some U.S. support. American aid is essential to Israel's military strength and economy.

When Percy returned from a Mid-

Jack Anderson

# The Unsung Heroes of Vietnam

Along the Vietnam retreat routes the world has caught glimpses of panic stricken civilians clawing for a ride to safety, undisciplined soldiers shoving women and children aside, corrupt officials flying out their valuables and leaving their neighbors behind.

But there have been heroes, too, who have taken great risks and have made great sacrifices to help the refugees.

In Banang, U.S. Consul-General Albert Francis and his staff worked around the clock while the city was in panic, trying to help move refugees south. The Americans waited until the last minute, almost too long, to evacuate.

— these are stories which deserve to be told.

To get the details, we have contacted the major American adoption agencies and the government's rescue operations. We have learned that private citizens, in the American way, haven't waited around for the government to do the job but have taken the initiative themselves. Here are just a few of their stories:

Stan Mooneyham left for Southeast Asia on April 3 to coordinate the relief efforts of World Vision, a private humanitarian organization. Operating out of Bangkok, he delivered six tons of food and medical supplies into Phnom Penh while the airport was un-

At this writing, Ms. Taylor is trying to bring out 70 more orphans. Robert Macauley, a co-founder of the "Shoeshine Boys Foundation," a home for Saigon street kids, is putting up \$45,000 for the flight. Other benefactors, William and Connie Boil, of the Friends of Children group, signed a loan to come up with the additional \$45,000 needed.

Macauley has sponsored several orphan flights, including the one that picked up the survivors of the C5-A crash. That flight cost him an incredible \$251,000.

There have been hundreds of stories like these, stories about the unsung heroes who never seem to make the

# Ford, Lexington and Concord

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## WASHINGTON

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By James Reston

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WASHINGTON, April 19—On the week when Cambodia surrendered and South Vietnam tottered, President Ford found time to preside over the crisis, address the D.A.R. and the American Society of Newspaper Editors, meet with the full membership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, make a

his prepared speech. When he was asked if his switches from higher taxation to bigger deficits didn't make him look inconsistent, he denied there was any inconsistency, and when it was suggested then that maybe his critics in the press had been wrong and inconsistent, he denied, with mock sincerity, that it had ever crossed his mind that the press could ever be wrong!

Washington doesn't quite know how to deal with this natural man. Almost everybody is mad at him for some-

dreadful muddle themselves, and meanwhile, Ford's personality and politics are proving to be better than the Democrats expected.

He is not only plain, honest, and decent, which is refreshing after Johnson and Nixon, but he is lucky—and the accident of luck in politics may be more important than anything else. He was appointed and not elected, and he inherited the unlucky mess of Vietnam and Watergate, but he was not to blame personally for either of these disasters, and he was lucky in

is in trouble, the modern equivalent of Herbert Hoover, but unlike Hoover, he is not to blame, and the Democrats have no Roosevelt. Ford is in a no-lose situation: He can run for the Presidency in 1976, but if he loses, the blame will be on Nixon, and if he wins the victory will be his.

For a time, shortly after he came to the White House, Mr. Ford seemed to be thinking of himself as an accidental and interim President, concerned primarily about the health of his wife, and remembering his promise

# The Skeleton in Gerald Ford's Closet

By Frank Fox and Stephen Parker

**S**ince Gerald Ford's ascension to the presidency, he has made a number of disturbing decisions in foreign and domestic areas which are more properly of personal concern to Richard Nixon than they are to the country.

Incidents such as Ford's request that Congress allocate \$850,000 for Nixon's transitional expenses; Ford's maintenance of Nixon's San Clemente staff with his own White House funds; the secretly negotiated Ford-Nixon tapes agreement; the pardon of Richard Nixon; Leon Jaworski's refusal to prevent or to challenge the pardon; Ford's sudden revival of an abandoned and discredited Vietnam policy—these and other domestic and foreign actions have so far baffled political observers. Given Ford's reputation for political caution, if not timidity, it is difficult to believe that he has been acting voluntarily.

The explanation for Ford's bizarre behavior may lie in evidence which indicates that Gerald Ford was present at a meeting of high Nixon administration officials during which support payments for the Watergate burglars and John Mitchell's plan to use the CIA to head off the FBI investigation into the Watergate break-in were discussed. The meeting, which appears to have taken place on June 22, 1972, five days after the Watergate break-in, was attended by Nixon, Mitchell, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Colson, and Clark MacGregor, among others. The meeting began in the Roosevelt Room at 9 A.M., moved at 10 A.M. to Nixon's Executive Office Building office across the street from the White House, and continued until 11:30 A.M. President Nixon was present for the last hour and a half of the meeting, and a tape of that portion exists.

The White House has persistently failed to either confirm or deny Ford's presence at this crucial Watergate meeting, but Ford himself has indicated that some such meeting did indeed take place.

During Ford's vice-presidential hearings in November, 1973, Congressman George Danielson asked Ford whether he had had any discussions with Nixon or with Nixon's aides about raising bail money or defense funds for the Watergate burglars. Ford said that he had not. Then the following extraordinary exchange took place:

**MR. DANIELSON:** Have you at any time since June 17, 1972; the day of Watergate, spoken personally or by telephone with the President, Mr. Mitchell, the former Attorney General, Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Ehrlichman, John Dean, Mr. Colson, Mr. Magruder, or anyone else at the White House concerned [sic] the raising of funds for the support of the families of the Watergate defendants?

**MR. FORD:** None whatsoever. Where I may have called, I might have casually said, in a meeting where there were a number of people that I thought it was, if it was being done, it ought to be stopped and if it was thought of as an undertaking, it ought not to be done.

This time, Ford's denial was in fact an admission of involvement, although couched in terms so vague that Danielson and the committee failed to comprehend its significance. (Congressman Danielson, commenting on Ford's response to his questions, recently told us that "one could infer that there was such a meeting," and that Ford

was not speaking out of fantasy but "out of recollection.") Certainly, Ford would have been a logical choice to attend at least one of the strategy meetings that followed the Watergate break-in. After all, he had known G. Gordon Liddy since 1968, and had recommended Liddy, then a defeated independent Republican congressional candidate in upstate New York, to Eugene Rossides, who gave him a job in the Treasury Department. When, two years later, Rossides dismissed him, Liddy went to work as a member of the White House "plumbers." In December, 1971, Liddy was assigned as counsel to John Mitchell's Committee for the Re-election of the President.

On Thursday morning, June 22, 1972, five days after the Watergate break-in and three years after Gerald Ford had brought G. Gordon Liddy to Washington, Liddy seemed on the verge of destroying the party's chances of winning a national election. If any two men at that June 22, 1972, Thursday-morning meeting would have felt a profound sense of responsibility for what had happened, they would have been John Mitchell and Gerald Ford. Ford's association with Gordon Liddy would not have been the only reason for his presence at the June 22 meeting. There was also the CIA connection. (According to a White House tape of a meeting between Nixon and Haldeman on Friday morning, June 23, 1972; Mitchell had formulated the CIA cover-up plan the day before, and Dean had analyzed it that night.) From 1955 through 1965, Ford had been a member of a small committee overseeing CIA appropriations; and, according to his own testimony, had detailed knowledge of CIA covert activities. When Ford assumed the post of minority leader, his responsibilities in this area ended, but there is no reason to believe that his knowledge of CIA operations and his closeness to CIA officials had diminished. On the contrary, they may have increased. We know that in 1970, Ford, in his efforts to impeach Justice Douglas, worked closely with John Mitchell (then attorney general and a member of the "40 Committee," the country's top national security intelligence organization, one of whose five members is head of the CIA); Ford received information on Douglas from Mitchell, who had gotten it from the FBI and the CIA.

Thursday, June 22, was the last possible day that Ford could have been briefed on Watergate and still have had time to convey the administration's position on Watergate to his congressional troops. The next day, Friday, Ford was scheduled to leave with Representative Hale Boggs, the Democratic majority leader, on a long-planned two-week trip to China at the request of President Nixon. Even though Ford was to breakfast with Nixon on Friday morning, before boarding a plane at Andrews Air Force Base, the meeting would also have been attended by Boggs. Ford's trip to China could not have come at a worse time for the White House. It would have been far more desirable to have Ford at his post and in a position to help orchestrate Republican congressional and party response to Watergate developments. But to cancel the trip might have suggested White House anxiety over what Ron Ziegler had termed "a third-rate burglary."

The meeting on Thursday, June 22, was the first brainstorming meeting since the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters on Saturday, June 17, 1972. (The meeting which would have normally taken place on Monday, June 19, had not been held; Haldeman had been in Key Biscayne with Nixon; Mitchell and other CRP officials had been in California.)

The most complete record of the final 90 minutes of this two-and-a-half-hour meeting would be contained in the White House tapes, but, for reasons best known to himself, the only material pertinent to this meeting which Leon Jaworski entered into evidence were the Haldeman

# Bicentennial: A Political Potential for Ford

By R. W. APPLE JR.

Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, April 20 — This weekend's events in Boston and environs demonstrated, to the surprise of many who took part, the tremendous political potential of the nation's 200th birthday celebration.

Kevin H. White, the city's Mayor, remarked on what he called

"this whole new factor," and so did several members of President Ford's entourage.

For Mr. Ford, who happens through a series of extraordinary accidents to be the nation's Bicentennial President, the opportunities are great.

Beginning with this weekend's commemorations of the initial skirmishes of the Revolution, and reaching a culmination with the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence next July

## Moving Scene

On a simple technical level, for example, the White House appeared to have missed an obvious bet by not pressing the television networks to carry the Friday night ceremonies in Christ Church, with its moving evocation of Paul Revere's heroism and its relighting of the lanterns that signaled the imminent British attack.

The local television production was spectacular, with shots of the President, framed in a Palladian window as he stood in the pulpit beneath a suspended sounding board, that would have delighted any image maker. In retrospect, Ron Nessen, the press secretary, agreed when he said that the Ford staff had had no idea

how spectacular the ceremony would be until they arrived at the church.

Beyond such technical considerations, there are those of

## Two Choices

The question is whether he will go to the other extreme and content himself with the safe rhetoric of a hundred Fourth of Julys past, in which Washington and Jefferson and the Adamses are celebrated as patriots without much attention to their ideals, or whether he will try to achieve a national reconciliation based on a frank acknowledgment that new common goals must be found to erase fragmentation and bitterness.

"The American dream," said Mr. Ford at Christ Church, "has yet to be fulfilled."

But he had little to say about why and he outlined no new thrusts beyond observing that "new ideas and new efforts" were needed.

The point was dramatized by the remarks of Robert W. Gollidge, the articulate young vicar of the church, who spoke of Old North's tradition of religious and racial pluralism, and

*Neil Sheehan*

# The Right To Be Rescued

The sudden resignation of President Nguyen Van Thieu has created an opportunity for the United States to avoid an act of betrayal in Vietnam that will haunt us if it occurs. That act would be the abandonment of those Vietnamese whose lives or well-being are certain to be endangered by the

ego have been invested.

The possibility of employing American troops to conduct an evacuation of Vietnamese on any sizeable scale appears to have already been mooted by the swiftness of the North Vietnamese advance, the congressional stricture against the reintroduction of U.S. military forces, and the lack of any workable plan by the administration to use those forces in time if Congress were willing to lift the restriction. South Vietnam's most important air base, Bien Hoa, which is 15 miles north of the capital, was rendered largely unusable this weekend by North Vietnamese artillery fire and within days the shells may be falling on the last major airfield, Saigon's Tan Son Nhut.

The only remaining possibility would seem to lie in taking advantage of the resignation of President Thieu to swiftly negotiate a settlement. In such an arrangement the United States might terminate military and economic aid to Saigon and foster creation of a coalition government in exchange for the guaranteed right to evacuate those



*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

## Jackson's Labor Dilemma

MILWAUKEE—Minutes after Sen. Henry M. Jackson left a breakfast with top labor brass here last Saturday, the president of the Milwaukee County Labor Council cornered Jackson national campaign manager Robert J. Keefe with a fundamental question.

"How does Scoop stand with George Meany these days?" asked Werner Schaefer.

Keefe, the smooth-as-silk pro who runs Jackson's campaign, gave a sugar-

*"Jackson has not extended his base without losing old support. Rather, he has clearly antagonized much of his labor constituency in wooing the party's left."*

speech, he sat in an elevated swivel chair on a raised dais in the center of the ballroom, fielding questions with considerable skill for 75 minutes under the hot glare of klieg lights.

But Hanson's problem recruiting ticket-buyers on a Friday night revealed another aspect of the senator's campaign: his reliance as the Senate's pro-Israel leader on Jewish contributors. Hanson's hope to sell tables to business leaders was blocked at the last moment by the new campaign-con-



Clayton Fritchey

## The Rockefeller-Goldwater Switch

Politics may make strange bedfellows, but funerals seem to make even stranger ones, as witness the sudden and surprising rapprochement of Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) at the last rites for Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

Actually they are more plane fellows than bedfellows, for they flew together to Taiwan as members of the official U.S. delegation chosen by President

*“Goldwater has made a career of attacking Nelson Rockefeller. From time to time he has virtually read the former governor out of the Republican Party. But all has changed overnight.”*

much influence with Mr. Ford that the latter will not listen to those who question Dr. Kissinger's hard line.

Barry Goldwater himself discovered the political limitations of hard-line hawkishness when, as a Republican candidate for President in 1964, he was overwhelmingly defeated by Lyndon Johnson, who campaigned against the senator, claiming Goldwater was a trigger-happy warmonger.

Considering that it was Johnson who




APR 28 1975

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: JERRY WARREN 

I thought you might find the attached  
article of interest.



WASHINGTON POST  
April 23, 1975

David S. Broder

# Passing the Energy Buck

Despite what you have been hearing during this week's debate about gasoline taxes, it is not true that Congress has done absolutely nothing about the energy crisis. Just two weeks ago, while public attention was distracted

That bill is a hodgepodge. Part of it gives the President certain emergency powers, which he might use in case of another oil embargo, unless blocked by Congress. But to this marginally useful grant of authority, the Senate Democrats attached a complex provision, full of high-sounding aspirations and short of policy directions. It commands the federal government and all 50 states to devise energy conservation programs (again subject to congressional veto) that will supposedly cut energy use the equivalent of 800,000 barrels of oil a day without hurting anyone.

It is as near-perfect an example of buck passing as Washington has ever seen. The man who would have to administer the act, energy chief Frank Zarb, pleaded with the Senate not to establish such "far-reaching but ill-defined mandatory energy conservation programs."

On the one hand, it has commanded that the state conservation plans should be approved by Zarb only if they "minimize adverse economic or employment impact" and "meet unique local economic, climatological, geographic and other conditions." On the other hand, the Senate has decreed that the net effect of these varied plans must reduce total domestic energy consumption by 4 per cent within a year of the bill becoming law.

So, if the regulations pinch in any state, Zarb will have violated one Senate command; and if energy use is not

**The Washington Merry-Go-Round**

THE WASHINGTON POST Thursday, April 24, 1975 G13

# Chile's Junta Invades the Schools

**By Jack Anderson  
and Les Whitten**

It has been our lot to chronicle the tragedy of Chile.

In 1972, we published secret documents, which proved the CIA and International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. had

tion for foreseeable future are extremely small."

The embassy was wrong. The generals moved against Allende, left him dead in the presidential palace and imposed a military dictatorship upon Chile.

This most democratic of South American nations suddenly was

"denunciation" form, which the junta has distributed to students and teachers for use in reporting on the attitudes and behavior of their peers.

The form asks for a "history" of the individual, including information that would help at "the interrogatory." Persons filling out the form are asked to

parents are summoned to attend meetings. "Failure to attend," warns one notice, "will be more than sufficient reason to proceed with your immediate arrest."

**Watch on Waste**—Tall, tweedy, Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Merton, the country squire from Maryland's Eastern Shore,

## The Harris Survey

# President Leads GOP Rivals

By Louis Harris

In a trial heat for President among Republicans and independents, President Ford beats former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, his closet potential rival, by 30-23 per cent.

This is the smallest lead an incumbent President has ever

*sible nominees of the Republican Party for President in 1976. (Hand respondent card.) If you had to choose right now, who would be your first choice for the Republican nomination for President in 1976?*

*Now which ones on that list do you feel you could not vote*

Mr. Ford also shows some weakness among older voters, industrial workers who are Republicans, people who voted for Nixon in 1972, and Catholics.

But his worst showing by far is in the small towns of the country, where Reagan leads him by a substantial 33

*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

# Weighing the Effects of Two Decisions

Policy decisions two weeks ago by President Ford in the wake of the Vietnam debacle, made in an offhand manner despite grave misgivings high in his own administration, now seem to have worsened what at best was an impossible situation for him.

The President's State of the World address April 10 contained two basic decisions: Asking \$722 million in Vietnam military aid, and blaming the U.S. fiasco in Southeast Asia on Congress rather than Moscow and Peking. That

fact-finder and seeker of a winning game plan. As a fact-finder, Weyand's assessment of military ruin was deadly realistic. As a game winner, his \$722 million proposal to re-equip four ARVN divisions to stabilize the military situation was wildly optimistic.

Returning to Washington, Weyand ran into skepticism from Pentagon civilians including Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger. Feeling Weyand's plan had only a miniscule chance to work these skeptics wanted

But during hectic speech-writing before the State of the World address, Rumsfeld proposed, unsuccessfully, one small change about detente. Accordingly, Mr. Ford blamed Congress instead of the Communist superpowers for Vietnam, presumably to save detente.

The result: Sharp private criticism by Republicans, including some old Ford advisers. To no avail. Questioned before the American Society of News-

*Richard Dudman*

## The Cambodian 'People's War'

By accident, I witnessed the beginning of the Cambodian insurgency that gradually took over the countryside, slowly strangled Phnom Penh and finally has taken control of the entire country.

This brief inside view of the start of a Communist-led revolutionary army was made possible when I was captured by guerrillas when trying to drive from the South Vietnamese border to the Cambodian capital on May 7, 1970, on assignment for the Post-Dispatch. With two colleagues, I was held 40 days before being released.

Our narrow but almost unique look

neutrality, an ostensible objective of the Nixon administration, it opened the way for eventual victory by a greatly expanded Communist-led Cambodian insurgency and the transformation of neutral Cambodia into a Communist state with close ties to Peking and Hanoi.

American bombs and tanks were a catalyst. Cambodians and Vietnamese are traditional enemies, but we could see Cambodian peasants turning to a friend in need in the form of the military forces of the Vietnamese Communists.

All were fleeing together, and we watched Vietcong guerrilla soldiers

icy was wrong in disdaining the importance of Sihanouk as a national leader and that the Communist side was adroit in making him nominal head of the insurgency.

U.S. forces went in and, after two months, came out again. They continued bombing and long-distance artillery bombardment, while the U.S.-supplied army of President Lon Nol did the fighting. As a result, the U.S. was seen at a distance in safety while letting Asians fight Asians to serve U.S. rather than Cambodian interests.

Nixon told the American people, "Cambodia is the Nixon doctrine in its



George F. Will

# The Bitter Taste of Recovery

If you think the recession is noxious, brace yourself for the bitter taste of recovery. Quickening economic activity will unleash inflationary pressures and a scramble for scarce credit, which will produce a giant expansion of government control of the economy and our lives.

Of course, recovery is not an immediate threat. Housing starts are at an annual rate of 1 million, 60 per cent below the 1973 record of 2.5 million.

*“Government is incorrigible but not infallible, so it won’t be able to prevent some economic recovery.”*

for the government. In the last 10 years, 4.4 million Americans—1,200 a year—have been added to the rolls in the private sector. In the next 10 years we need three times that—\$4.5

government borrowing is harmless because private demand for credit is slack in this recession.

The argument seems to be: Huge deficits are good because they are stimulative, and they are harmless as long as the economy is slack. So government can finance its extravagance without suffocating recovery as long as there isn’t much recovery.

Of course, the government can borrow less if it recklessly inflates the



*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

## Ford's Vulnerability

**MARENGO, Ill.** — The political vulnerability of Gerald R. Ford after nearly nine months as President is appallingly apparent in this conservative, rock-ribbed Republican farm town where he has still made no impact as a forceful national leader or, even more dangerous for him, as leader of his party.

Indeed, Mr. Ford is perceived here as little more than "a damn good guy"



rating, and his equally high scores as "the kind of decent, honest man the presidency needs," is only a base on which to build a strong presidency. The superstructure appears not to exist.

A middle-aged factory worker summed it up: "I like Ford as a man, but he doesn't put forth any surge of leadership." That same theme was a broken record. "He's compassionate," said a \$20,000-a-year marketing consultant

*10/1/75  
10/1/75*

# Gen. Louis Wilson in Line To Be Marine Commandant

Lt. Gen. Louis H. Wilson, commander of the 60,000 Marines of the Fleet Marine Force in the Pacific, has been chosen by President Ford to become next commandant of the Marine Corps, informed sources disclosed yesterday.

The selection of the Wilson, 55, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in World War II

THE IMPENDING vacancy in the post of commandant has, as is typical in the military, precipitated a distinctly political battle within the Marine Corps for the past year:

Wilson was said to have the important backing of influential Sen. John Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who represents

ing for Marine interests at the "tank" where the Joint Chiefs of Staff meet to chart future strategy, tactics, manpower and equipment requirements.

Schlesinger, according to sources, not only overruled Cushman's recommendation of Anderson but has

tion's highest military award, Wilson also holds the Purple Heart with two stars signifying he was wounded in action three times.

Wilson has largely been distant from the Washington scene since 1972 when he assumed command of all



*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

# Cambodia: A Letter From a 'Supertraitor'

When the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps evacuated the last American officials from Cambodia April 12, the U.S. embassy in Phnom Penh received an extraordinary letter that has produced a mixture of sorrow and foreboding in Washington.

The letter was written to Ambassador John Gunther Dean by Prince Sirik Matak, Cambodian high counselor. He and Prime Minister Long Boret, two of the seven "supertraitors"

*"The letter spells out his sense of betrayal by the Americans and hints that the United States will somehow suffer the consequences of that betrayal."*

moved from real power (and was placed under house arrest for a time

Sirik Matak concluded with a cryptic paragraph containing intimations of a

President Ford invited members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to the White House April 14 for a top secret briefing on the Vietnam crisis and got lectured by junior Democrats eager in the heady air of "reform" to tell the Chief Executive how to run his business.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, a 32-year-old first-termer with no visible background in foreign affairs, instructed the President on the logic of

Washington Post - Sunday, April 27, 1975

David S. Broder

# Reagan's 'Sharp-Line' Formula

LOS ANGELES—This weekend finds Ronald Reagan midway through a speaking trip into Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, Mississippi, Florida and Georgia. Last week he was visiting New England colleges. The week before that he was in England, and the week before that he was in

areas of agreement with a terribly hostile Congress," Reagan says. "But maybe this is the time to challenge them and focus the blame where it belongs."

Sometime this summer Reagan will decide whether it is time for him to challenge Mr. Ford's asserted claim to the 1976 nomination. It is "too soon" for such a decision now, Reagan says. But his advisers believe that anytime after Labor Day will be too late, given the fund-raising and organizational efforts needed to prepare for a challenge to an incumbent President in some 30 primaries.

The White House has made tentative efforts to discourage his candidacy by such steps as enlisting the sole remaining Republican officeholder in California, Atty. Gen. Evelle Younger, as an avowed Ford backer. But Reagan says, "I don't feel at all fenced in," and there is no reason to think he can be bluffed out of the race, if he decides to go.

"We all have to hope and pray that the incumbent President will solve the problems so capably that there will be no question about 1976," he says in

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 28

Mr. Marsh --

Andy Newton called to draw your attention to the attached article which appeared in today's Washington Post.

Thanks.

donna



# Military Academy Battles for Its Life

By Jay Mathews

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Staunton Military Academy, once the largest private school in the South, alma mater of Barry Goldwater Sr. and Jr. and John W. Dean III, is fighting a rearguard action against extinction.

Layne Leoffler, who owns the academy, is a 54-year-old mining and real estate tycoon, and a partner in the S. G. Leoffler Co. here, which has for many years held the concession to operate Washington's publicly-owned golf courses. Leoffler has announced that he may close the academy this year if financial help is not forthcoming. This week, Leoffler is seeking an audience with Virginia Gov. Mills E.

Godwin Jr. to see if the state can do anything to save one of its historic landmarks.

its cadets on strict heating and hot-water regulations, but its staff offered

Enrollment hit a high mark of 654 in the 1960s, then rapidly plummeted as the unpopular Vietnam war, a galloping inflation and a declining nationwide school population crippled military schools throughout the country. Leoffler said the latest count shows 243 cadets at the school, enrolled in the 6th through 12th grades.

"I think supply and demand is the number one problem," said Leoffler, who graduated from the academy in 1940. "Some people like to say it's the military, but nonmilitary prep schools... are also in trouble."

Leoffler, who took over the school in 1973 to save what he calls "a strong aca-





*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

# A Wallace Victory in Tennessee

**NASHVILLE**—The first serious effort to control Gov. George C. Wallace's 1976 presidential surge collapsed here April 23, convincing even diehard doubters that he poses deadly, unsolved problems for the Democratic Party.

"That was really a show of people power," said a beaming Wallace mocking the New Left idiom as he left the Tennessee House of Representatives. He had just put on a vintage Wallace performance before cheering Wallaceite galleries and awed, somewhat frightened anti-Wallaceite legislators. The legislature and governor drop-

*"The backstage effort to repeal primary elections in states with Wallace strength has collapsed almost everywhere."*

ter that, repeal plans for Michigan foundered.

Nevertheless, Tennessee Democratic leaders still hoped a variety of forces would coalesce to repeal their primary.

a committee room, Wallace was invited into the House chamber with the trappings of a formal state visit—much to Blanton's disgust.

It was a field day for Wallace, who

fied him in advance of coming to Tennessee. Wallace replied blandly that he was so at home in neighboring Tennessee that he felt no need for formalities. Translation: I'll come here any time I want. Asked whether he would support Blanton's party registration bill (excluding non-Democratic Wallaceites from the primary), Wallace said he could never advocate taking away the people's right to vote.

Blanton told us he will try again next year for party registration and, failing that, would again seek a primary law repeal. But most Democrats feel the battle is lost.



## William C. Welch, 54, Dies; Liaison Official With VA

William C. Welch, 54, director of the Veterans Administration Congressional Liaison Service, died of cancer yesterday at the Veterans Administration Hospital here.

He had been with the VA for the last 15 years. He also



an aide to three U.S. congressmen from Georgia, Henderson Lanham, Erwin Mitchell and John Davis.

Mr. Welch was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria and president of Cameron News Limited, a

# Cables Warn of Viet Exit Nightmare

By Jack Anderson  
and Les Whitten

Secret cable traffic warns that the great evacuation of Saigon could turn into another nightmare.

Saigon's Tansonnhut airport, the military reports warn, is extremely vulnerable and could be put out of action at any time. If Communist mortars, artillery

A massive airlift, Martin contends, would only panic the Vietnamese and bring their defeat. Therefore, he has limited the airlift to about 3,000 persons a day, substantially less than the 5,000 claimed by the State Department. Military experts say they could have been bringing out 10,000 a day.

Martin also has resisted a quiet Pentagon move to recover

estimated \$1 billion worth of military hardware along the retreat routes.

The Communists also have moved into some of the finest U.S. facilities that money can buy. They have taken over hospitals, barracks and warehouses. They are using 10,000-foot-long American-constructed runways that would make many American cities envious.

ged down in an evacuation effort that could turn into a military action.

The United States has searched in vain, meanwhile, for new homes for the Vietnamese refugees. Only Taiwan has offered to take some of them. Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and other Asian nations sounded out informally have refused to accept any refu-

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Kenneth Crawford

# 'The Dominoes Are in Fact Falling'

The domino theory, we have long been assured, is nonsense — merely a subterfuge for adventuring in Indochina. If that is so, what is happening in Thailand, the Philippines and Laos must be illusory. For those three countries already seem to be tumbling out of the free-world orbit into the authoritarian socialist orbit.

Unless President Marcos of the Philippines doesn't mean what he is saying, his country is leaning hard to the left out of the perceived necessity of getting on with China and its friends. In Laos, the Communist Pathet Lao controls three quarters of the country and is about to take over the other quarter. And the Thais, always sensi-

the U.S.S.R. The implication is that America has proved itself unreliable and that Israel should look to a reliable nation for security.

We are hearing much these days from those who knew all along that we

were playing a losing hand in Vietnam and Cambodia. They told us so. They did indeed. Some of the same people are less talkative about their certainty that the other dominoes would be unaffected. The dominoes are in fact falling and the end is not yet in sight. The clatter is no illusion.

Nobody can now foresee the ultimate consequences of America's humiliation. President Ford can admonish the country and the world to forget Vietnam and look to the future.

ture proves the folly of war any time anywhere. War, he says never in the history of the world accomplished anything. Not even the war against Hitlerism? Well, maybe. But in that war a lot of unnecessary battles were fought. So they may have been. But it takes an arm-chair amateur 30 years later to muster the gall to redo that history.

Then there is the expert on Vietnam, credentials in good order, who writes in a national news magazine: "Our Vietnam was dying, a corrupt, feudal

society; theirs, like it or not, was a new, modern society born of the colonial war with the French." So Communist dictatorship represents "modern



*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

# Israel's Battle for Congressional Opinion

A head-on attack against President Ford by one of Israel's most respected journalists here has pushed White House political temperatures closer to the boiling point and hardened this tentative conclusion: Israel's battle to outflank Gerald Ford in his own country is getting rougher.

dent Ford is scarcely remarkable in a country which enjoys notable freedom of expression. What is significant is that high officials in the Ford administration are convinced that his criticism closely parallels private sentiments of some of Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's top political advisers. As such,

ing paper for the President before that interview on a possible meeting with Rabin. Thus, the President's answer, entirely his own, triggered Margalit's report to Ha'Aretz the following day.

What raises the President's hackles about Israel's anti-administration campaign is its assumption that pro-Israeli

Letter," that "there have been . . . some unjustified and needlessly shrill reactions recently to statements made by some members of Congress" critical of Israel.

The immediate issue between Mr. Ford and Israel is the U.S. "reassessment" of American interests