The original documents are located in Box 6, folder "6/23/75 - Republican Women's Federal Forum" of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Republican Women's Federal Forum



March 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

WHITE HOUSE STAFF/STAFF WIVES

FROM:

PAT LINDH

SUBJECT:

Invitation to join the Republican

Women's Federal Forum

The Republican Women's Federal Forum was formed in 1974 to provide a platform for Republican spokesmen and to give briefings to its members. Membership is open to women who are associated with the federal government through their own positions or those of their husbands.

Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Rockefeller serve as honorary Co-Chairmen of the Forum. Mrs. Francine Neff, Treasurer of the United States, is President of the Forum.

Our first meetings for 1975 is scheduled for March 24th with Mr. Frank Zarb as speaker, followed by an informal lunch. We will start promptly at 12 noon and plan to take as little time as possible from everyone's busy schedule.

For further information about the Forum and for application forms, please come by my office. We hope you will be able to join in this very worthwhile effort.



REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FEDERAL FORUM 310 First Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003 484-6697

- WHAT IT IS: A Republican organization for women in Washington who are associated with the federal government or the national Republican party, either through their own positions or those of their husbands.
- PURPOSE OF THE FORUM: To provide a prestigious forum for Republican spokesmen at monthly luncheon meetings, to provide an organizational bond for Republican women in the Washington area, and to provide stimulation and enjoyment in the process.
- WHAT IT DOES NOT DO: Take a lot of your time with social or organizational matters. The meetings are snappy and educational and there are no business meetings.
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- HOW TO JOIN: Fill out an application form and send us your check for \$15 annual dues (payable to Republican Women's Federal Forum).

 Mark your envelope ATTENTION: Betty Lewis

REMEMBER: Forum functions are open only to members and their guests.

Join now!

HONORARY CO-CHAIRMEN: Mrs. Gerald Ford and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mrs. Norman Armitage

The Honorable Catherine Bedell

The Honorable Helen Delich Bentley

The Honorable Mary Brooks

Mrs. Patrick J. Buchanan

Mrs. Claire Lee Chennault

Mrs. Barbara Dimock

Mrs. Julie Nixon Eisenhower

Mrs. Kenneth Frick

Mrs. Mark Hatfield

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The Honorable Francine Neff

Mrs. John Rhodes

Mrs. Hugh Scott

Mrs. William Simon

Mrs. J. William Stanton

Mrs. Thomas M. Thawley

The Honorable Gloria Toote

The Honorable Ethel Bent Walsh

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Republican Women's Federal Forum 310 First Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003 484-6697

MS. MISS			
MRS			
La	st	First	
MAILING ADDRE	SS		
OCCUPATION AND TITLE	Self Husband		
PHONE Offic	e	Home	
Annual Dues: Federal Forum Lewis.	\$15.00. Ple. Mail form	ase make check payabl and check to above ad	e to Republican Women's dress, ATTENTION: Betty

		men would be interest address and print cle	ed in joining the Forum. arly.)
	Name	Address	Zip
	And Statement		
			A. FCEU
			E RAIL
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford's upcoming schedule

Monday, June 16, 1975

8 p.m. The White House. State Dinner for the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs. Walter Sheel. Details on separate release.

Wednesday, June 18

12 noon. The White House, South Lawn. Mrs. Ford will host a brown bag picnic lunch for members of the Republican Congressional Wives Club. Beveridges and dessert will be served, with guests bringing their own lunches. About 180 women are expected. Mrs. Ford been a member of the organization for 25 years.

Thursday, June 19

8 p.m. The Uris Theatre, New York City. Mrs. Ford will attend a Gala Benefit celebrating the 50th year of the Martha Graham Dance Company. Press contact: Tom Kerrigan (212) 643-1249

Monday, June 23

12 noon. The White House. Mrs. Ford will host a brunch for members of the Republican Womens Federal Forum. This will be the regular monthly meeting of the group. Mrs. Ford is honorary chairman of the group's advisory council.

8 p.m. Wolf Trap Farm Park. Mrs. Ford will attend the opening of the Metropolitan Opera.



file-Event

MRS. FORD REMARKS

TO REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FEDERAL FORUM

- | -

IT'S A PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY. THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FEDERAL FORUM MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME.



I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT I WAS IN ON THE BEGINNING OF THIS ACTIVE, INNOVATIVE GROUP LATE IN 1973, ALONG WITH ANNE ARMSTRONG, BARBARA BUSH, BETTY RHODES AND MANY OTHER GOOD FRIENDS.

- 3 -

AND I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT MY HUSBAND WAS
THE FIRST SPEAKER TO ADDRESS ONE OF OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS.
INCIDENTALLY, JERRY ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO EACH OF YOU HIS
BEST WISHES.



THE FORUM CAN AND SHOULD BECOME A PERMANENT

FIXTURE ON THE WASHINGTON SCENE. IT GIVES SOME OF OUR

LIVELIEST, MOST TALENTED PEOPLE -- REPUBLICAN WIVES AND

CAREER WOMEN IN EVERY PHASE OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS -
A CHANCE TO GET TOGETHER, TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND TO KEEP

INFORMED IN A PLEASANT, SOCIAL SETTING.

- 5 -

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE (TOKE-VEEL), THE GREAT

NINETEENTH CENTURY FRENCH WRITER ON AMERICA, ONCE SAID

THAT THE STRENGTH OF OUR PEOPLE LIES IN THE SUPERIORITY OF

OUR WOMEN. THE SAME THING IS TRUE OF THE REPUBLICAN

PARTY.

-6-

AND GROUPS LIKE THIS HELP BRING TOGETHER AND

ORGANIZE OUTSTANDING REPUBLICAN WOMEN -- FROM THE LEGISLATURE, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE NATIONAL PARTY STRUCTURE.

- 7 -

BUT I AM HERE TODAY AS A MEMBER OF THE FORUM -NOT AS A GUEST LECTURER. SO LET ME JUST REPEAT HOW GLAD
I AM THAT YOU COULD ALL BE HERE AND WISH YOU CONTINUED
SUCCESS WITH A GROUP THAT I ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORT AND
AM PROUD TO BELONG TO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FEDERAL FORUM 310 First Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003 484-6697

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ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FEDERAL FORUM.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Organization shall be:

- to provide a Forum for Republican and Administration spokesmen;
- to provide briefings for members on important issues;
- to provide an organizational bond for Republican women associated with Government in order that they may share and advance ideas and keep one another informed of activities of common concern and interest.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility:

Membership in the Republican Women's Federal Forum shall be extended to any Republican woman presently or formerly serving in Federal Government departments and agencies, the Judiciary, the Congress, or the Republican National Committee, Republican Congressional Committee, the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, and to wives and daughters of men presently or formerly serving in such positions.

Section 2. Application for Membership: _

Application forms shall be filled out and submitted to the Membership Committee.

Any members subject to the provisions of the Hatch Act shall be eligible to participate in club activities to the degree allowed under this Act.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Luncheon meetings of the Forum shall be held no more often than once a month and preferably eight (8) times a year.

ARTICLE V

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section 1. Composition:

- (a) The ruling body of the Forum shall be an Advisory Council which will consist of approximately twenty (20) members.
- (b) The following women will automatically become members of the Advisory Council: the senior Cabinet wife; the wife of the Republican Leader of the United States Senate; the wife of the Republican Leader of the United States House of Representatives; the Co-Chairman of the Republican National Committee; the President of the D.C. League of Republican Women; the wife of the Chairman of the Republican National Committee; the President of the National Federation of Republican Women. Should one of these women choose not to serve on the Advisory Council, the members of the Advisory Council may select from the Forum membership at-large a member of the Advisory Council to replace her, drawn from a similar category.
- (c) The remaining thirteen (13) members of the Advisory Council shall be elected from the Forum membership atlarge at the time of the first Forum meeting in each calendar year, for a term to end with the first meeting in January of the succeeding calendar year.
- (d) The ruling body of the Forum prior to the first election shall consist of those women who formed the first Advisory Council for the purpose of establishing the Forum. Their term shall continue until the first succeeding January.

Section 2. Meetings:

Meetings of the Advisory Council shall be as follows:

(a) within two weeks after the first meeting in January of each year, to certify the results of the election of atlarge members to the Advisory Council and to elect officers of the Forum;

- (b) in mid-September to facilitate program planning for the fall;
- (c) at the call of the Chairman or at the written request of ten (10) members of the Advisory Council.

Section 3. Quorum:

Ten (10) members shall constitute a quorum for all meetings of the Advisory Council.

Section 4. Duties of the Advisory Council:

- (a) to set policy with regard to speakers and dates of club functions;
- (b) to oversee final Minutes of the club, including the budget and disbursement and reporting of funds; (
- (c) to meet on call of the President or at the written request of ten (10) members;'
- (d) to fill such vacancies as may occur on the Advisory Council between elections;
- (e) to certify election of the at-large members of the Advisory Council;
- (f) to elect officers of the Forum from among the members of the Advisory Council.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

Section 1. Honorary Officers:

When the President and Vice President of the United States are Republicans, their wives shall be asked to serve as Honorary Chairman and Co-Chairman respectively of the Forum. When the President and Vice President of the United States are not Republicans, the wives of the Republican Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives shall be asked to serve as Honorary Chairman and Co-Chairman respectively, of the Forum.

Section 2. Officers:

The Officers of the Forum shall be selected from among the members of the Advisory Council and shall consist of a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such Vice Presidents as the Council may deem appropriate. The Council will assign to these Vice Presidents their several duties.

Section 3. Duties of the President:

- (a) to preside at all meetings of the Forum and the Council;.
- (b) to represent the Forum at Republican functions whenever necessary or to designate someone as her representative in her absence or inability to attend;
- (c) to serve as liaison with the Republican National Committee and other Republican Party organizations;
- (d) to direct the Secretary to send out notice of all Forum functions at least two weeks prior to such functions:
- (e) to be ex officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 4. Duties of the Secretary:

- (a) to send out notice of all Forum functions at the direction of the President;
- (b) to keep Minutes of all meetings of the Forum and Advisory Council;
- (c) to work with other officers on implementation of their programs;
- (d) to maintain all records other than final records for the Forum and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to her by the President or the Advisory Council.

Section 5. Duties of the Treasurer:

- (a) to be custodian of all funds of the Forum;
- (b) to give bond sufficient to cover the maximum amount of money likely to be in her possession, the cost of such bond to be paid by the Forum;
- (c) to select and disperse all funds as directed by the Advisory Council;
- (d) to make written reports of receipts and disbursements as requested by the President of the Advisory Council,

ARTICLE VII

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations:

- (a) A Nominating Committee composed of five (5) members of the Advisory Council (see Article 5, Section 1, paragraphs (b) and (c)) and elected from their own number shall submit a list of thirteen (13) nominees for those members_at-large of the Advisory Council defined in Article 5, Section 1, paragraph (c).
- (b) A list of nominees shall be provided to the Forum members no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election at the first meeting in January.
- (c) Nominees shall be members in good standing of the Forum and shall be only those who are not precluded by provisions of the Hatch Act from holding office in a parliamentary political organization.
- (d) Additional nominations may be made by mail provided the nominee has given to the President written consent to serve if elected.
- (e) The Forum's membership shall meet thirty (30) minutes in advance of the January luncheon meeting for the purpose of electing at-large members of the Advisory Council.

Section 2. Elections:

- (a) A majority of all votes cast shall constitute an election.
- (b) All members of the Forum who have submitted their application from and/or dues thirty (30) days prior to the date of the first Forum meeting of the calendar year shall be eligible to vote.
- (c) New members will take office immediately upon election.

Section 3. Vacancies:

All vacancies on the Advisory Council shall be filled by a majority vote of the members of the Advisory Council present at the first meeting following such resignation.

ARTICLE VIII

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Section 1. Dues:

Annual dues for membership in the Forum shall be \$15.00.

Section 2. Charges:

There will be a charge for each luncheon which will pay for the cost of the luncheon and its arrangements.

Section 3. Guests:

Guests may attend luncheon meetings accompanied by a member.

ARTICLE IX

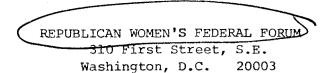
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484-6697

file in event file

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SUBJECT: Instructions for Social Aides

EVENT: Republican Women's Fed	eral Forum	ı - Brunch	
Date/Time: June 23, 1975 (12:00 n	oon)	No. of Guests:	350
Uniform: Service Dress		Parking: North	Grounds
In-Place Time for Aides:	11:00 a.m.	(Library)	There is an additional of the second section of the second section of the second section of the second section
In-Place Time for OIC:	10:45 a.m.	(Social Office)	
Duty Aide: LtCol A. A. Sardo, US	MC		
First Family Participation:	Mrs. For	·d	
The following Social Aides will att	end:		

Lt John A. Gaughan, USCG
Lt(jg) Shelley E. Cochran, USN
Capt Thomas L. Groppel, USA
Capt John D. Power, USAF
lstLt Robert J. Harig, USAF
Capt John R. Harris, USMC
Capt Andrew N. Pratt, USMC

*Officer in Charge

Music: USMC String Ensemble w/piano in the Lobby (11:30) (East Gate)

Remarks:

ROBERT E. BARRETT
Major, U. S. Army
Army Aide to the President

DISTRIBUTION:

Capt Kollmorgen LtCol Sardo

LtCol Blake Major Barrett Mrs. Rawe
Mrs. Weidenfeld
Secret Service
Visitor's Office
Band

Usher's Office White House Garage White House Staff Mess Mr. O'Donnell White House Police (7)

	-	
Bv	Lie	Baker

FACT SHEET Mrs. Ford's Office

Event Bru	mch		
Group The	e Republican Women's Federal Forum		,
DATE/TIME	Monday, June 23, 1975 12 noon		
Contact Lin	nda Baker / Lea Jablonsky		Phone 2927 / 964-
Number of gu	nests: Total approx. 350 Women X	Men	Children 2333
Place State	Floor		
Principals inv	olved Mrs. Ford .		
Participation	by Principal yes - greet informally (Reco	civing line) no	
Remarks requ	nired no		
Background	The Republican Women's Federal Foru	um's purpose is to	provide a forum for
organizat	ional bond for Republican women in the ckefeller are the Honorary REQUIREMEN brunch for the group's Guest list yes - Lea Jablonsky to the Se	Washington area. TS Co-Chairmen June meeting.	Mrs. Ford and, and Mrs. Ford is
	Invitations yes - sent by the Forum	Programs no	Menus no
	Refreshments yes - a stand-up brunch		
	Entertainment no		
	Decorations/flowers yes	*	
	Music_yes		
	Social Aides yes		
	Dress Business Suit		Coat check if inclemen
	Other		weather
Press:	Reporters TO BE RESOLVED		
	Photographers		
	TV Crews		
	White House Photographers yes	Color yes	Mono
	Other		
7			
Technical	Minnet	DA Other De	
Support:	Microphones no	PA Other Roo	oms no
	Recording no		The State of the S
	Lights no		
	Transportation cars Southwest Gate	* * *	
	Parking South Grounds (overflow: Nort	h Drive)	1 1000
	Housing no	/D1 / 1 / 2	3
	Other	_(Risers.stage,platforn	(1S) - who
Project Co-ord	linator Linda Baker		Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.

FACT SHEET Mrs. Ford's Office

Event B	runch		
Group T	he Republican Women's Federal Foru	ım	
DATE/TIM	Monday, June 23, 1975 12 noon		
Contact I	inda Baker / Lea Jablonsky		Phone 2927 / 954-
Number of	guests: Total approx. 350 Women X	Men	Children 2333
Place Stat	e Floor		
Principals is	nvolved Mrs. Ford .		
Participatio	on by Principal yes	Receiving line) no	
Remarks re	quired yes		
Republi organiz Mrs, R	The Republican Women's Federal E can spokesmen at the group's monthly ational bond for Republican women in ockefeller are the Honorary REQUIRES a brunch for the group's Guest list yes - Lea Jablonsky to th	the Washington are TENTS Co-Chairm June meeting	s and to provide an ea. Mrs. Ford and en, and Mrs. Ford is ng.
	Invitations yes - sent by the Forum		
	Refreshments yes - a stand-up brun	ch	The second secon
	Entertainment no		District on the part of the pa
	Decorations/flowers_yes		
	Music yes		
	Social Aides yes		
	Dress Business Suit		Coat check if incleme
	Other		weather
ress:	Reporters TO BE RESOLVED		
	Photographers		
	TV Crews		
	White House Photographers yes	Color yes	Mono
	Other		
Technical.			
Support:	Microphones yes	PA Other	Rooms no
section or c.	Recording yes	111 (71116)	
	Lights ?	1	
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FACT SHEET Mrs. Ford's Office

Event B	runch				
	he Republican Women's Federal Forum				
DATE/TIA	E Monday, June 23, 1975 12 noon				
Contact I	inda Baker / Lea Jablonsky		Phone 2927 / 984-		
Number of	guests: Total approx. 350 Women X	Men	Children 2333		
Place Stat	e Floor				
Principals i	nvolved Mrs. Ford .				
Participatio	on by Principal yes Rec	civing line) no			
Remarks re	quired yes				
Republi organiz Mrs. R	The Republican Women's Federal Forcan spokesmen at the group's monthly lustional bond for Republican women in the ockefeller are the Honorary REQUIREMENT a brunch for the group's Guest list yes - Lea Jablonsky to the St	th cheen meetings to Washington area WTS Co-Chairmer June meeting	and to provide an . Mrs. Ford and a, and Mrs. Ford is		
e o carra	Invitations yes - sent by the Forum				
	Refreshments yes - a stand-up brunch		The second secon		
	Entertainment no	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	The second secon		
	Decorations/Gowers yes				
	Music yes				
	Social Aides yes				
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	Photographers				
	TV Crews				
	White House Photographers yes	Color yes	Mono		
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Support:	Recording yes	I A Content	oms no		
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	Other	(Risers.stage,platfor	016) 9		
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reject Co-c	gdinator_Linda Baker		Phone (2927		
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 20, 1975

MRS. FORD:

Event:

Brunch for the Republican Women's Federal Forum

Date/Time:

Monday, June 23, 1975

12 noon

Place:

State Floor (State Dining Room)

Number of

Attendees:

Approximately 350 ladies

Schedule of

Events:

12:00 p.m.

Your guests will arrive through the Diplomatic Reception Room and will be escorted to the State Dining Room.

12:05 p.m.

Nancy Ruwe will escort you via elevator to the State Dining Room where you will proceed across the room to a position under the Lincoln portrait. You will make brief welcoming remarks.

Following remarks, you may wish to join your guests for refreshments and mingle informally.

Buffet brunch will be served to your guests from round tables in the State Dining Room.

12:45 p.m.

You may wish to return to the Family

Quarters.

NOTES:

A Military string ensemble will be

positioned in the Grand Hall.

Military Social Aides will be present?

- 2 - Republican Women's Federal Forum
Brunch

There will be press coverage.

A White House photographer will be present.

Guest list is attached.

Background information is attached.

Nancy Ruwe



Betty Acts Eager For Campaigning

By Isabelle Shelton Washington Star Staff Writer

Betty Ford says she "can hardly wait to get started" campaigning for her husband's next presidential bid.

Mrs. Ford was hostess at a White House luncheon yesterday for about 350 members of the Republican Women's Federal Forum, a group she helped organize. about a year ago as a luncheon platfform for prominent Republican speakers.

RECALLING that yesterday, she said there came a time, when the organizing was done and the first luncheon date was approaching, "and someone said who are we going to get to make the first speech?

"The Vice President seemed a logical choice," she recalled, "and suddenly everyone was looking at me. I knew right then and there that I had my first job to do, to convince Gerald Ford that this was an important group, worth his time to come and address."

She succeeded, and "I'm proud to recall that he was the first speaker," she said

SHE DOES believe the group is important, Mrs. Ford said, and "I'm happy to see that it now has become a permanent part of the Washington scene."One of the things I keep drilling into my husband's head is that 53 percent of registered voters are women," she said, and not only is the message getting across to her husband, but "other men are beginning to realize it too."

The standup lunch (necessary because there were so many attending) consisted of quiche lorraine, fresh cantaloupe, honeydew melon and watermelon pieces served in big scooped-out watermelons, frosted brownies and minted iced tea. Grange juice and white wine also were served.

SEVERAL WOMEN government officials were among the guests, along with several Congressional wives and District Republican National Committeewoman Allie Marriott.

Constance Stuart, who was press secretary to Pat-Nixon for a few years, said she enjoyed coming back as a guest "to see how the other half lives." She was startled at the "noise level" as the 350 women gathered in the lower level of the White House before coming. unstaira.

First Lady Betty Ford and the Republic

said yesterday that she "keeps drilling" into her husband that 53 per cent of the registered voters are women while only 47 per cent are men.

from 350 members of the Republican Women's Federal

First Lady Betty Ford Forum at a buffet brunch in the state dining room at the White House.

Mrs. Ford was one of the founders of the group a year ago and President Ford was Mrs. Ford won applause its first speaker when he had just become Vice President.

women who work in the federal government and wives of senators, representatives and other federal officials.

Asked if she intends to campaign for her husband when he runs for President in 1976. Mrs. Ford exclaim-

The group includes ed "I can hardly walt to start."



an Women's Federal Forum

VP-086

WASINGTON (UPI) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD TODAY SAID SHE IS ANXIOUS TO START HELPING HER HUSBAND CAMPAIGN FOR A FULL TERM IN THE

PRESIDENCY.

MRS. FORD DISCUSSED THE CAMPAIGN WITH REPORTERS WHILE SHE WAS ENTERTAINING SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FORUM AT A BRUNCH IN THE WHITE HOUSE STATE DINING ROOM. SHE SAID SHE CAN

"HARDLY WAIT TO GET STARTED". PRESIDENT FORD HAS NOT YET FORMALLY DECLARED THAT HE WILL SEEK THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION IN 1976 AND HAS KEPT THE TIMING OF HIS

ANNOUNCEMENT SECRET, EVEN FROM HIS WIFE.

"NE PROBABLY THOUGHT IF I KNEW IT, I WOULD ANNOUNCE IT TODAY,"

MRS. FORD SALD. MRS. FORD, WHO DICE ASKED HER RUSBAND TO QUIT POLITICS, NOW APPEARS TO BE ENJOYING HER LIFE AS FIRST LADY AND CLEARLY WANTS TO

CONTINUE LIVING IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

IN FORMAL REMARKS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BRUNCH, MRS. FORD RECALLED WHEN THE WOMEN'S FORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND AS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS, SHE PROVIDED THE FIRST SPEAKER -- HER HUSBAND.

"THIS GROUP HAS MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO ME," SHE SAID. "I WAS IN ON

THE PLANNING." SHE SAID THE GROUP EXEMPLIFIES "ONE THING I KEEP DRILLING INTO MY HUSBAND" -- THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF REGISTERED VOTERS IS 53 PER CENT