

The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “8/9/75 - First Year in Office Anniversary” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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1st year

IT'S HER FIRST YEAR, TOO (editorial, excerpted from the Memphis Commercial Appeal): Everybody has been writing and talking about the end of President Ford's first year in the White House. It is worth noting that it has been the end of Betty Ford's first year in the mansion, too.

There had been speculation when the Fords took over that the new President would make his decision on whether to be a candidate for election to the office in 1976 in part on the basis of Mrs. Ford's health. But she has proved a good trouper. She has not only proved fully capable of dealing with the many duties of a first lady, she has also become an effective speaker on subjects which "interest me and that I've been involved in."

And with it all she has been a mainstay for her family, too.

So now she is ready to help her husband campaign for election next year by traveling with him as much as possible. We wish her well, knowing she will be a real asset to him in that campaign as she has been as first lady during this first year in the White House. (8/10/75)



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MRS. FORD

BY KENNETH J. FREED

WASHINGTON (AP) -- ANY WHITE HOUSE MARKING OF PRESIDENT FORD'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE WILL BE "VERY, VERY QUIET. IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING I FEEL LIKE CELEBRATING," SAYS BETTY FORD.

SPEAKING OF THE WATERGATE-RELATED EVENTS THAT TOOK HER HUSBAND TO THE PRESIDENCY, MRS. FORD ADDED THAT "MAYBE WE'LL HAVE DINNER TOGETHER AND COMMISERATE."

SHE SPOKE TO REPORTERS MONDAY DURING THE 10-HOUR FLIGHT HOME FROM YUGOSLAVIA, THE LAST OF THE FIVE NATIONS PRESIDENT FORD TOURED DURING THE LAST 10 DAYS.

ALTERNATING BETWEEN PERIODS OF REFLECTION AND EXUBERANCE, MRS. FORD APPEARED IN BETTER HEALTH THAN DURING MUCH OF THE TRIP. BUT HER EYES APPEARED STRAINED AND ANXIOUS UNDER A HEAVY APPLICATION OF MAKEUP.

ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE, MRS. FORD SAID, "I'VE BEEN VERY HAPPY" AS THE WIFE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ALTHOUGH IT MEANS GOING ON WHAT SHE CALLS "THE ENDURANCE CONTESTS" SYMBOLIZED BY THE JUST-ENDED EUROPEAN TRIP.

"I FEEL AT HOME AT THE WHITE HOUSE," SHE TOLD NEWSMEN QUIETLY STILL, "I SAY THAT ADVISEDLY BECAUSE IT BELONGS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE'RE ONLY A PAGE IN HISTORY."



Washington Post - Aug. 9, 1975 - p. A3

Fords Invite Only Rockefeller For First Anniversary Dinner

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President and Mrs. Ford will mark their first anniversary in the White House tonight with a private dinner for

of former California Gov. Ronald Reagan and not about Republicans in general in discussing opposition to the Ford nomination.

"Nelson Rockefeller agrees with me wholeheartedly," Callaway said. He added, however, that his job as campaign

Dipping at White House Isn't Skinny

—The Rockefeller children and President Ford's middle son, Jack, capped the President's celebration of his first year in the White House by taking a dip in the new White House pool in their smallclothes, Press Secretary Ron Nessen disclosed. This could prove that Republicans are more modest than Democrats. A recent book by a former White House kennel keeper carried the uncertified report that President John F. Kennedy and friends had been known to skinny-dip in the old indoor pool. Nessen said the swim had occurred after the Fords had dined with the Rockefellers, including three of Happy Rockefeller's daughters by a former marriage. Undeterred by a shortage of bathing suits, and making do with their underwear; were C Carol, 19, Melinda, 15, and Wendy Murphy, 22; their half brothers, Nelson Jr., 11, and Mark Rockefeller, 8, and their host, Jack, 22.

Underwater at the White House

It has now been revealed that a confusing number of Rockefeller children and Jack Ford wound up President's Ford's anniversary party Saturday night by swimming in the White House pool in their underwear. Ronald Nessen, press secretary, reported the event for undisclosed reasons. He said that after the dinner enough swim suits could not be found so some of the younger people went for the dip in their underwear. Those in the pool included Jack Ford, Rockefeller's two sons and Mrs. Rockefeller's three daughters by a former marriage. A White House kennel keeper recently whispered in a book about the White House that the Kennedy clan used to skinnydip with friends in the old indoor pool. Each administration is revealing in different ways.

*Washington Star -
8/11/75 p. 2*



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"People who live in white houses shouldn't throw stones," Beame quipped upon hearing the President's statement. "Perhaps the mayor of New York should begin serious talks with the Communist block," an aide remarked. "That appears to be the fastest way to get aid in Washington."

But, on a more sober note, Beame added: "I never thought I'd see the day when a President of the United States would go around the world talking disparagingly about any part of this country." The city council president said Ford's comment amounted to "crass stupidity."

Asked about the propriety of the President's remark at the Tuesday news conference Press Secretary Ron Nessen said: "I don't think there is any secret about the President's view of New York City's finances." Nessen said Ford merely related his view that the city failed to manage its finances properly, leading the mayor to see the President's help in vain. -- UPI; CBS Morning News (8/5/75)

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Betty Ford Calls First Year in White House Happy; Looks Forward
To Four More

First Lady Betty Ford told reporters on the way home to Washington Monday that her first year in the White House has been "very happy." Of her husband, she said "it was a strain in the beginning, but Jerry's adjusted well," adding that "he has just gotten into his stride."

Mrs. Ford also said she wanted her husband to run for a full term next year, saying "he wouldn't be running unless I wanted him to." -- CBS Morning News (8/5/75)



First Ford year to end quietly

WASHINGTON (AP) — Any White House marking of President Ford's first year in office will be "very, very quiet. It's not the kind of thing I feel like celebrating," says Betty Ford.

Speaking of the Watergate-related events that took her husband to the presidency, Mrs. Ford added that "maybe we'll have dinner together and commiserate."

She spoke to reporters Monday during the 10-hour flight home from Yugoslavia, the last of the five nations President Ford toured during the last 10 days.

Alternating between periods of reflection and exuberance, Mrs. Ford appeared in better health than during much of the trip. But her eyes appeared strained and anxious under a heavy application of makeup.

Although it's not something to celebrate, Mrs. Ford said, "I've been very happy" as the wife of the chief executive, although it means going on what she calls "the endurance contests" symbolized by the just-ended European trip.

"I feel at home at the White House," she told newsmen quietly. Still, "I say

that advisedly because it belongs to the American people. We're only a page in history."

She wants her husband to run for a full term in 1976.

"Of course I do. Of course I want him to run," she said, adding with a sly grin, "He wouldn't be running unless I wanted him to."

Mrs. Ford relaxed throughout the interview. She knelt in the aisle and smoked a cigarette as she talked about the trip and the White House. Unlike nearly everyone else on the plane, she talked about "Jerry."

According to her, "Jerry's just gotten into his stride" as President.

"It's like being a freshman congressman, you have to become acclimated. It takes a year."

As she knelt there, she talked of being an ordinary tourist at heart.

But no tourist could ever compare staying in palaces as she did: "Some are better than others."

One comment did sound as if it came from a tourist on a tight budget instead of the wife of a man on a \$200,000-a-year salary: "I stayed within my quota and my husband's quota."

Newsmakers-----

L.P. Times - Aug. 14, 1975 - p. 2.

Dipping at White House Isn't Skinny

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