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FAY GILLIS WELLS
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Dear Susan -

Laughed Mrs. Ford - would
be interested in this clipping from

1965 -

Little did she realize that
what "bucier" could really mean -

See you on the 25th -

Love
Fay



Betty Darling -

We are looking forward
to seeing you, March 25. Is the
President going to bring you
a pitch you up after the dinner?

I thought you would be
interested in the enclosed
clipping I found in my files
dated 1/5/65.

Love and
Fay



Shika

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO:

RED CAVANEY
PETER SORUM

FROM:

SUSAN PORTER

SUBJECT:

Mrs. Ford Attendance at the Radio and TV
Correspondent's Dinner (Fay Wells),
Washington Hilton Hotel, March 26th

Mrs. Ford will attend the Radio and TV Correspondent's Dinner as a guest of Fay Wells of Storer Broadcasting Company. Mrs. Ford has attended this dinner as Fay's guest for many years and has been very fond of Fay through the years. She will travel to the dinner with the President (the cocktail period is 6:30-8:00 in the Georgetown Suite). Mrs. Ford then will break from the President and will join Fay and her guests in the Jefferson Room for dinner (I understand the President will be eating in the Ballroom). Entertainment in the Jefferson Room will follow the dinner. Nightcaps in the Georgetown Suite will conclude the evening.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff
William Nicholson
Ron Nessen
Mildred Leonard
Rex Scouten
Staircase



'We Can't Be Much Busier'

1/5/68

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Betty Ford Paces as Husband Wins



NEW HOUSE LEADER—Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.), who was elected House Minority Leader yesterday, is shown with his wife, Betty, dressed to attend a formal dinner recently. A former model and student of the dance, Mrs. Ford is now the mother of four children—three boys and a girl.

By Marie Smith
Washington Post Staff Writer

BLOND BLUE-EYED Betty Ford, a former Powers' model, was pacing the floor in her husband's office when House Republicans yesterday elected Rep. Gerald R. Ford, a 51-year-old former football star at the University of Michigan, as their new leader.

It was 25 minutes to 12 when the telephone in the office rang, bringing the news of his victory in the race that she admits was "so close it could have gone either way."

"I had a strange feeling because a great deal of responsibility goes with the job. But we've always been busy and we can't be much busier," she mused as she faced the question of what the new job may mean in their lives.

Mrs. Ford, was in the gallery to watch the opening of the new session and see her husband occupy the seat that has been filled for the last six years by Indiana's Rep. Charles Halleck.

After the first order of business was over — and members were sworn in and the speaker of the House elected — her blond, handsome husband looked up to her in the gallery and motioned for her to come down. She said "I went out and tore downstairs and was

rushing so hard I almost knocked him down as I turned a corner. He was coming to greet me. It was wonderful to congratulate him."

His victory was something they had both wanted but they didn't count on it too much or make too much over it so there would be no disappointment if he failed.

THOUGH THE occasion might have called for a special luncheon to celebrate, there couldn't be one because Gerry Ford had to go back to the floor to his leadership duties, so Betty went back to his office alone.

She ordered a hamburger and glass of milk for lunch and ate it alone at his desk. But they planned their celebration for last night.

"He promised to take me out to dinner before the night session," she smiled.

"I'm glad he got it, I'm glad for him," she said. "He's got a great deal of energy, you can't tire him out, and he has a great deal of patience."

The Fords came back from an eight day skiing vacation in Michigan to face what yesterday might bring them.

The vacation, she said, "was something we had promised the children. So we went right ahead with it," she said.

THE FORDS, who have four children age 7 to 14, bring an attractive, young look to the Republican Party leadership.

And she is willing to share the added responsibilities he has acquired.

Betty Ford likes politics and knew what she was getting into when she married her hometown sweetheart. They were married in October 1948, and he was first elected to the House in November 1948.

"I helped him in the primary before we were married. I was working (as fashion coordinator at Herpolsheimers in Grand Rapids) but worked nights mailing campaign literature. After we were married, I campaigned with him and have helped him every time since."

She recalled that, because of politics, they did not even have a honeymoon. "We planned the wedding on Friday so he could take me to Ann Arbor to a football game on Saturday, and then to hear Tom Dewey make his opening blast in Ossowa that night. Then we drove to Detroit to spend Sunday by ourselves."

For several years after they came to Washington, Betty would come to her husband's office on Saturday and Sunday and do his

See FORD, A17, Col. 7

February 23, 1976

Dear Fay,

Just a note to say I have March 25th circled on my calendar. I look forward to joining you and I will personally keep an eye on the President's pipe!

With affectionate best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linton Wells
2601 Woodley Place, Northwest
Apartment 912
Washington, D. C. 20008

SP/sr

c: ✓ BF Accepted Pending (March 25, 1976)



OF SITE
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M/R. 25



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Suite 601, 1725 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006
(202) 331-9884

January 17, 1976

FAY GILLIS WELLS
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Betty Darling:

It's Radio-TV dinner time again - Thursday March 25, to be exact. And I hope you will be able to be with us, in person, this year. It was fun to talk to you by telephone and have the President drop by to express your personal disappointment, but this year we hope there will be no regrets, only the pleasure of your presence.

As usual, the Storer Cocktail party will be in the Georgetown Suite, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, beginning at 6:15 to 7:45; the Ladies dinner to be held next door, in the Jefferson Room, at 8pm, to be followed by the rendezvous back in the Georgetown Suite after the dinners. And, as usual, it will be a gathering of old friends, sparked a few new faces. Anne Richardson will be back after her sojourn in London. But this time as Mrs. Secretary of Commerce.

Lint is making progress after his second broken hip - he is one of the few people who can boast of matching hip scars.

He joins me in sending his regards to you and President Ford.

*In the spirit of '76 let
it begin with me — love
Fay*

*P.S. Will have a
telephone in case
someone forgets this
Paper.*

Fay Gillis Wells
Linton Wells
2601 Woodley Place, NW (912)
Washington, D. C. 20008





Push
3/26/76

A (Gerald) Ford Bumps Into a Chevy (Chase)

By Tom Shales



Chevy Chase, above, on President Ford: "If he's so dumb, how come he's President?" President and Mrs. Ford, at right: "Mr. Chevy Chase, you're a very, very funny suburb."

"I'm Gerald Ford," said the President, pointing to TV star Chevy Chase, "and you're not." The line, a reversal of Chase's trademark, got a big roar from the Radio and Television Correspondents' Association at their 32d annual dinner last night, in the Washington Hilton Hotel.

But the bigger roars went to Chase himself, who did, in person, his bumbling, stumbling impression of Mr. Ford—a regular feature on the high-rated late-night TV series "NBC's Saturday Night," which has brought a new wave of irreverent satire to television and developed a huge youth-cult following in the process.

Last night marked the first meeting for the satired and the satirist. Mr. Ford alternately puffed his pipe and laughed on the dais as the comic—who insists Chevy Chase is his real name—went through his Gerald Ford routine, frequently nosediving toward the floor and being rescued by fellow cast members Dan Ayckroyd and John Belushi, playing Secret Service agents.

"Whoop!" Chase would say, dropping out of view. Then, retrieved: "No problem." Continuing to lampoon Mr. Ford's alleged clumsiness, Chase announced, "I have asked the Secret Service to remove the salad fork embedded in my left hand."

When he accidentally bopped himself with a gavel, the two "agents" grabbed the gavel and wrestled it to the floor. Some of the real Secret Service agents standing by did not appear to be amused.

The White House had already let it be known that it considered this kind of tomfoolery to be funny rather than malicious. Presidential Press Secretary Ron Nessen announced on Feb. 24 that he will appear as a guest host on the April 17 edition of the NBC program. Earlier yesterday, Nessen met with the show's three cast members and its 31-year-old producer, Lorne Michaels, at the White House.

From his stumblebum presidential impersonation, Chase, 32, went into one of his satirical "Weekend Update" newcasts. He reported that the campaign slogan Mr. Ford had chosen was, "If he's so dumb, how come he's President?"

Chase also related that on one accident-prone morning, the President "tied his shoe to his hair blower, and it inadvertently pardoned Richard Nixon."

In the New Hampshire primary, Chase said, "President Ford accidentally kissed a snow ball and threw a baby."

See CHASE, B4, Col. 2



Associated Press photo



OUT ON THE TOWN

President and Mrs. Ford wave greetings to bystanders as they prepare to enter their car after attending a

dinner last night sponsored by the Radio-Television Correspondents at the Washington-Hilton.

... an off-duty officer, supervisor, said the situa-



- 5 -
WASHINGTON (UPD) -- PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS WIFE WERE AMONG PROMINENT GUESTS THURSDAY NIGHT AT THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY'S ANNUAL RADIO AND TELEVISION CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION DINNER.

THE FORDS SAT AT THE HEAD TABLE AT THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL ALONG WITH SEVERAL SENATORS AND CABINET MEMBERS. THE EVENT DREW SOME 1,000 GUESTS.

THE FORDS WERE GREETED BY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT WILLIAM GREENWOOD, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MUTUAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, AND INCOMING PRESIDENT ROBERT FOSTER, OF WGN CONTINENTAL BROADCASTING.

THE DINNER FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT BY CHEVY CHASE, A COMEDIAN ON NBC TELEVISION'S SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAM WHO REGULARLY USES MATERIAL BASED ON FORD'S UPS AND DOWNS AS A POLITICIAN -- AND SKIER.

FORD HAD HIS CHANCE THURSDAY AND RESPONDED IN KIND, BUT HIS REMARKS WERE OFF THE RECORD.

