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SYLVIA CHASE: You have said to me, "Mr. Nixon took advantage of my father, used my father." In what ways did he do that?

JACK FORD: Well, I think the most basic way is that, when he looked my father in the eye and said, "Jerry, I'm innocent. All this is fabrication of the press. I need your help to try and put an end to it." ...the type of thing that Richard Nixon did to the whole country because he just didn't tell the truth.

DAN RATHER: For 35 years the Azores - a dot in the Atlantic Ocean - have been a vital part of our worldwide defense strategy. It is the jet age set down in a colonial backwater, only now inching its way into the 20th century. Until the left-wing revolution in Portugal two years ago, the Azoreans seemed content to let the government in Lisbon control their institutions and their economy. No longer!

WILLIE HAMILTON [Member of Parliament]: She detracts attention from the main problems of our day. She leads our people to believe that all is right in the world so long as she's sitting there like a fairy on a Christmas tree - nice and pretty, but useless, useless.

QUEEN ELIZABETH, II [Speech before Parliament]: I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your councils.

WALLACE: I'm Mike Wallace.

RATHER: I'm Dan Rather.

CHASE: I'm Sylvia Chase. Morley Safer is on assignment. In a moment, those stories and more, tonight on 60 MINUTES.

[Announcements]

["JACK FORD"]

SYLVIA CHASE: The last time 60 MINUTES was at the White House, what followed was Morley Safer's famous interview with Betty Ford. A week or so ago, I went to the White House to talk to President and Mrs. Ford's 24-year-old son Jack. In many respects, Jack is as candid as his mother.

You made a public statement almost two years ago that, like most people your age, you had tried pot. Did you discuss the fact that you were going to say that with your father beforehand, or did you just blurt it out?

JACK FORD: I didn't discuss it with anyone beforehand. I knew I wanted to say it - because, again, I think it's ridiculous when you

try to hide things. I was concerned about what impact, you know, it might have on Dad. I didn't quite know what to expect when I got back, though he did have--

CHASE: What did he say?

JACK FORD: He said, "I read about you." [Laughter] "I read about your trip to Oregon." And then he said, "Despite what everyone probably will say over the next six months, in the long run, you'll know it's the right thing. I know it was the right thing, and probably most people will realize it was the right thing."

CHASE: Had he known before that you had tried it?

JACK FORD: We hadn't-- We had discussed it in the most philosophical manner. We had the great debates on it. But I had never said, "Dad, I've smoked marijuana."

CHASE: One of the other things that we hear about young people is that they are sexually liberated these days. Do you think that loosening up of standards is really a good idea?

JACK FORD: I'm not sure it suits me personally, but then maybe I'm a little bit old-fashioned.

CHASE: Well, there is, of course, that now, by-now-famous statement of your mother's that if your sister Susan had come to her and said she was having an affair, she wouldn't be surprised. Would you be surprised?

JACK FORD: In general, for an eighteen-year-old girl, I might not be surprised. For my sister, I would be surprised.

CHASE: Right now in Washington everybody is agog with the big sex scandal. Do you think that political leaders should be moral leaders as well?

JACK FORD: Unquestionably. I think they have to set a good example. Whether or not he has to have a successful marriage doesn't necessarily denote to me a criteria for good moral example. But I think we do have to expect certain things from him, and that's truthfulness, trustworthiness and honesty. And if a leader wants to have an affair, I think he should be truthful and frank about it - and accept the consequences.

CHASE: One of this country's foremost political correspondents has called you the Ford campaign's hidden asset. Do you think your father recognizes you as a hidden asset now?

JACK FORD: Oh, I think he probably recognized me as a hidden asset long before the-- [laughing] the campaign, in the sense that I think probably every father feels good about his son and his capabilities and his positive aspects.

[Scene of party]

MAN: When are you running for President, Jack?

JACK FORD: When am I running? I feel like I'm running already. It's been very busy and I've been doing a lot of travelling. I haven't had much time to myself.

[Indistinct party hubbub]

JACK FORD [signing autographs in crowd]: Primarily, right. I'll be there.

MAN: We have to go out in the lobby.

WOMAN: Can you give me one more--?

WOMAN: Do you want my shoulder?

MAN: You have a lot of publicity.

JACK FORD: I have--

WOMAN: Boy, oh boy!

JACK FORD: People who might not have recognized the positive factors I might be able to bring to the campaign, I had my differences with, and we had our conflicts and so forth. In fact, it got to the point where, so to speak, I might have washed my hands off the campaign, and--

CHASE: They didn't want your help? Is that it?

JACK FORD: Quite frankly, yeah. You know, they suggested maybe I could help open letters in the mailroom. I was willing to help, but I wasn't going to make nine months, or however long the campaign runs, that be my sole contribution to the campaign.

[On the campaign trail]: Thank you very much. Jack Ford, here, working for my father, President Ford, today. How do you do, sir? Jack ford, here, working for my father. How do you do?

MAN: It's a pleasure.

JACK FORD: Same here! Here, working for the old man!

[Music]

JACK FORD: Wouldn't it be great if we could campaign from the sailboat? Just sail up and down the coast of California? [Laughing]

CHASE: When the President Ford Committee at last put Jack Ford to work, it was at a succession of fifteen-hour days. In California,

he eased the strain by rolling informally along the coast in a campaign bus. Even in the bus, it is political business as usual. Here, an interview with Cameron Crowe of *Rolling Stone* magazine.

CAMERON CROWE: Is Nixon still on their minds a whole lot?

JACK FORD: Very much on their mind. A lot of the people just feel like they got taken advantage of, screwed over. And quite frankly, I'm one of those people. I worked for Richard Nixon in '72, I voted for Richard Nixon, I thought he was the best candidate. Richard Nixon didn't treat my father that the way my father treated him. You know, he feels if a guy can look him in the eye and say, you know, "I am not a crook, I'm an honest man," he's going to take that man at his word.

CHASE: You have said to me, "Mr. Nixon took advantage of my father, used my father." In what ways did he do that?

JACK FORD: Well, I think the most basic way is that, when he looked my father in the eye and said, "Jerry, I'm innocent. All this is fabrication of the press. I need your help to try and put an end to it." And--

CHASE: When was that?

JACK FORD: Well, you know, I'm taking liberties there, in terms of, you know, a Bernstein and Woodward type of quote, maybe, *Final Days* type of quote. But that's the type of thing that Richard Nixon did to the whole country, because he just didn't tell the truth.

CHASE: He's stumping for the President, he says, to help a guy who's been pretty good to him for twenty-four years. But the Jack Ford who likes to hunt with his dogs and fish and hike - that Jack Ford craves informality. He told me about the disadvantages of life in the White House.

JACK FORD: Just living in the house itself, it doesn't-- it doesn't belong to you as a family. It's not home. It really belongs to the people who have worked here for 15, 20, 30, 40 years. They've put a lifetime in it, and they've been through so many First Families, and it's sort of their house.

CHASE: Well, what happens when you come home from the movies at eleven o'clock in the evening and you say, "I think I'd like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich"?

JACK FORD: You go to make a sandwich, and the kitchen staff is all up in arms, you know. Everyone's running around trying to get the peanut butter and the jelly out and the bread out and whatnot. And all you want to do is make a sandwich and have a glass of milk, and they almost feel offended that-- that you just didn't come in and say, "I want a peanut butter and jelly sandwich," and then go sit out in the room and wait for it to happen.

CHASE: I wonder, do your friends have to go through the gate the same way I did, and--?

JACK FORD: Right. That's another problem. You know, friends don't just drop in, knock on the door and say, "Hey, I was in the neighborhood, and I thought I'd say hello" - because, you know, you have to-- they have to notify me that they're coming and then I have to notify the usher's office, who has to notify the Secret Service, who have to notify the officers at the gate. I had a tremendous hassle with the Secret Service. I had some friends in the house up here on the third floor that the Secret Service didn't know, so they had agents assigned up here on the-- on the third floor, which I happen to think is living quarters--

CHASE: It's your house.

JACK FORD: Right. You know, there has to be a point. And I got a little bit offended and we got into a little bit of a hassle because you know, there's a couple of agents standing here cross-armed, looking very serious in the agent manner, and I felt like they were actually intruding on my little domain that I do have.

CHASE: But I don't get from you the feeling that you think that the Secret Service is a silly thing.

JACK FORD: Oh, no! No, no, no! You know, there's no question about the need for the Secret Service.

CHASE: What is the need? How did--

JACK FORD: Well, you never-- you never want to put the President in a position of choosing between country and family.

[Campaigning, with guards]: Good morning.

CHASE: Six full-time Secret Service agents are assigned to guard the President's son. Jack Ford makes a campus campaign swing at the invitation of the California President Ford Committee.

JACK FORD: Good morning.

[Applause]

JACK FORD: Good morning, everyone. I don't have a prepared statement I prefer not to do speeches. I think politicians generally end up spending more time talking to people instead of listening to 'em. As a result, the format that I think is most productive is one of questions coming from you, so it gives me an idea of what's on your mind. To that end, maybe I can communicate some of these ideas, some of these questions, to my father - and give him a good idea of what's-- what's important to you and what's important to the people.

QUESTION: I've got a question directly for you. What do you give a 'guy who went into the service - okay? - he had friends and made friends; he saw them going-- being shipped to Vietnam and coming back in a pine box? The guys who came back from World War II were heroes. The Vietnam veterans who came back were looked at as junkie or guys up in a tower with a gun. I'm tired of it. I think it's time that we get our rights too. [Applause] And I'm also-- and I'm also-- [applause] I'm a veteran, and I'm also in favor of total amnesty for those who didn't go, 'cause I think they were a hell of a lot braver than the guys who went. And I'm one of the guys who went. [Applause/cheers]

JACK FORD: I would say that there's probably people who would disagree with you who are also veterans as well.

VIETNAM VETERAN: I'm sure there are.

JACK FORD: He can pardon Richard Nixon, but he's not going to grant unconditional amnesty for the draft dodgers? You're right. He's no [Audience reaction] Quite frankly, because there's a question of the people involved who not only lost sons to Canada and Sweden and England, but people who lost sons for a lifetime.

CHASE: Not all the questions are as serious as that one.

JACK FORD: Yes, sir?

QUESTION: Are you still going out with Chris Evert? [Laughter]

JACK FORD [laughing, amidst cheers]: I haven't-- I haven't had much time for going out with Chris.

MAN IN CROWD: Right!

JACK FORD: She's a little busy and I've been a little busy.

CHASE: Do you mind telling me about your most recent date? [Laughing] There's so much speculation about Jack Ford, the bachelor in the White House. [Laugh]

JACK FORD: Ah! My most recent date? I hate to say it, but it seems so long since I-- I had a-- I guess what you would call an "official date" - at least in the last month, because of campaigning. But my most recent date was with a girl that I've gone out with for several years now.

CHASE: Does she live here in Washington?

JACK FORD: No, she lives in Ohio, and I don't like to get names because I don't want to subject her or our relationship to the kind of public scrutiny that comes up.

CHASE: I understand. But I guess what I'm saying is what is it like to have a date with Jack Ford? [Laughs]

[Announcements]

["A DOT IN THE ATLANTIC"].

DAN RATHER: Last week it was Italy - the Communist Party scoring advances in Parliamentary elections. Now it's Portugal, holding its Presidential election. No matter who wins, the Socialists will be in power.

With our NATO allies moving to the left, the strategic value of the Azores Islands takes on new importance. You can barely find the Azores in the middle of millions of square miles of ocean, but don't confuse their size with their importance. They have been a way station between Europe and America ever since Columbus stopped off there.

60 MINUTES visited the Azores to find out why they are so important to our national security and to take a look at the growing movement there for independence from Portugal.

It is a well-known place to a select group of Americans - those who fly our military aircraft. For 35 years the Azores - a dot in the Atlantic Ocean - have been a vital part of our worldwide defense strategy. Military cargo planes refuel here, as they did in World War II, and as they did during the 1973 Mideast war - carrying supplies to Israel. It is the jet age set down in a colonial backwater, only now inching its way into the 20th Century. For five hundred years the Azores have been an outpost of Portugal.

[Music]

Until the left-wing revolution in Portugal two years ago, the Azoreans seemed content to let the government in Lisbon control their institutions and their economy. No longer!

The Azores are nine small islands in the middle of the Atlantic, a thousand miles from Portugal, two thousand miles from the U.S. It is their location that makes them absolutely essential to United States defense - for it is from our airbase on the Island of Terceira that Navy planes track Russian submarines in three million square miles of ocean.

Submarine hunting is not a hit or miss effort, but one based on advanced computers that distill intelligence information and tell the patrol planes where and how to look for the Russians. We were severely limited by security restrictions in what we could film. They would not show us a "live" plot of a Russian sub, for example.

NAVY OFFICER: Good morning. Your event this morning will be a surveillance mission.