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THE 1ST LADY

UPI leads: "BF, stating 'I can only be me,' traveled to Deep South and voiced support for passage of ERA, despite long-standing resistance in area to women's equality issue."

AP leads: "Speaking out on marijuana, abortion and women's rights on her 1st trip as 1st Lady, BF said, 'I don't mind tough problems. I'm ready to face them.'"

UPI leads: "GF donned sterile hospital gown, scrubbed up, and cooed at infants in nursery of St. Vincent's Hospital, saying she hopes someday to be grandmother." ... Clip on CBS in #3 story as she said she was all for babies followed by her saying abortion's been dealt w/ by Supreme Ct which, is law of land and she'll abide by it. NBC noted this statement at Cath. hospital followed BF spokesman earlier saying she favored abortion only re: danger to mother's health and in case of assault.

AP leads: "Donning gray surgical gown, BF visited hospital patients, got look at newborn babies, and put in plug for women's rights during trip to help raise funds for B'ham hospital." ...CBS noted BF's all for ERA and ready to go on road for it.

"Betty: Sure Kids Tried Pot" is p. 2 NY News w/ photo of her w/ Mrs. Wallace. ... "Children Tried Pot, BF Says" tops 6-col Star story and photo of BF holding a baby. ... "BF Attends Ala. Hospital Fund-Raiser, Boosts Women's Rights" banners inside Sun page.

On both nets BF said she's certain her children have tried pot. Kids try everything, but "they definitely don't like it, and it isn't being used." CBS added that BF declined to comment on legalization, but thinks "it's a possibility" she might favor softening of the laws.

A couple of controversial subjects came up, said NBC over film of BF deplaning for visit she promised to make before GF was Pres and she said she keeps her promises. Over clip, NBC's Cochrane noted she spent most of time at hospital in maternity ward. ... Her 1st solo, said Peterson of CBS who also noted BF was keeping 6-mo-old commitment. Clips of BF at formal dinner. ... NBC w/ her dancing -- the most sought after on the floor w/ lots of cutting-in and the aides said she'd dance but twice, BF didn't seem to mind a bit. NBC clips also of Mmes. Buckley, Javits, Oberon and Tyson. ... BF was there to be recognized as 1 of US "legendary women" noted CBS.

BF w/ Cicely Tyson is p. 2 Trib photo....Photo inside Post of the laughing 1st Lady in hospital. ...BF cut short her trip because of GF concern over Carmen, NBC noted.

"At Last, A 1st Lady Who Speaks Her Mind" tops piece by Inquirer edit bd. member Goss in praise of Mrs. Ford for her ERA and abortion views and her opposition to separate bedrooms. "It's reassuring to see a 1st Lady act like a real person and not a Dresden doll. ...[And] world won't collapse because Amers. now know their Pres. has a sex life. It's refreshing...."

"Fords Put Their Best Foot Forward at WH" tops NY News piece on the dancing and revived social life at WH.

"Susan's Trying to Be Herself" tops LAT interview in Inquirer.

OTHER ADMIN

NR w/ Dobrynin/HAK is p. 1 NYT photo. ...HAK/NR was p. 2 Post photo and also inside NY News. ...Inquirer editor Creed Black seconds Steve Hess suggestion that NR handle Bicent. which continues to flounder in DC.

"Fantastically modest" says a critic of the \$983/acre assessment on NR's 3400 acres in Westchester where some is going for \$25,000/acre. In a p. 1 Bulletin feature, the local assessor acknowledges '62 costs are used for valuations and "it's tough to be fair."

"GF'll put his own stamp on WH [this week] w/ sweeping restructuring plan, that includes cutting back staff's size and power," leads Wieghart in NY News w/ Ash "the 1st to go" and OMB to lose much of its power w/ Seidman GF's desired successor but facing obstacles as he'll reportedly not accede to possible confirmation condition to sell his holdings or place them in blind trust. Wieghart also says Clawson's been asked to leave by 9/15 w/ his operation eliminated. And Domestic Council's also to be shaken up w/ Cole likely to be replaced and NR to handle its overall direction.

"A frustrated GF, working under what he considers shackles of a rigid staff system designed for another personality, is determined to reshape WH staff asap," leads Beckman in Sun. Trib's lead story. "GF's growing more and more impatient" w/ 2nd and 3rd level RN aides of a whom a top Ford aide says "have got to learn they're no longer programming a Pres and learn to start serving him instead." Access by 5-6 top aides is foreseen w/ nobody #1 and an admin. asst. in charge of running the staff machinery.

now

**Metro
Edition**

The Birmingham

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87th Year—No. 177

68¢

Birmingham, Ala., Friday, September

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON D. C.



First Lady's evaluation of self: 'Very normal'

BY ELMA BELL
News staff writer

Down to earth, but sharp as a tack is the way a close

Betty Ford to a Washington reporter. And that is exactly the way Mrs. Ford seemed in a telephone interview Thurs-

"I consider myself very normal," Mrs. Ford agreed when the description was read to her. "And I try very hard to keep up with affairs

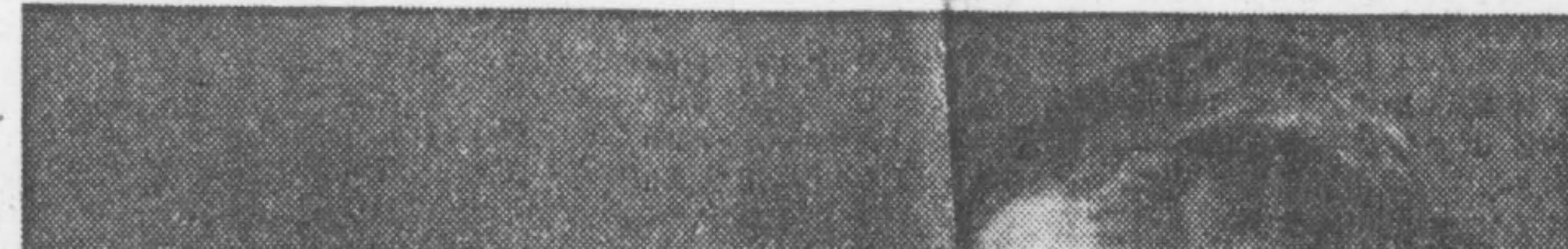
SEP 08 1974

Children Tried Pot, Mrs. Ford Says

By Isabelle Shelton

Star-News Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Betty Ford, making her first solo journey outside of Washington as First Lady



staying overnight and returning to Washington today

SHE WAS still wearing

kind and good," said a man who had swung her around the dance floor at the first of the weekend events held to raise funds for St. Vincent's Hospital.

*Birn
Chrono*

The First Lady Steps Out on Her Own

BY MARLENE CIMONS
Times Staff Writer

tening to a tribute describing her as "one of America's legendary women."

Asked about her earlier apparent loss of composure, she said only: "I was very moved."

WASHINGTON—The dark streets of Birmingham

"This is, of course, my first experience on my

She was tired; the strain showed on her face. She returned to her compartment to rest until the

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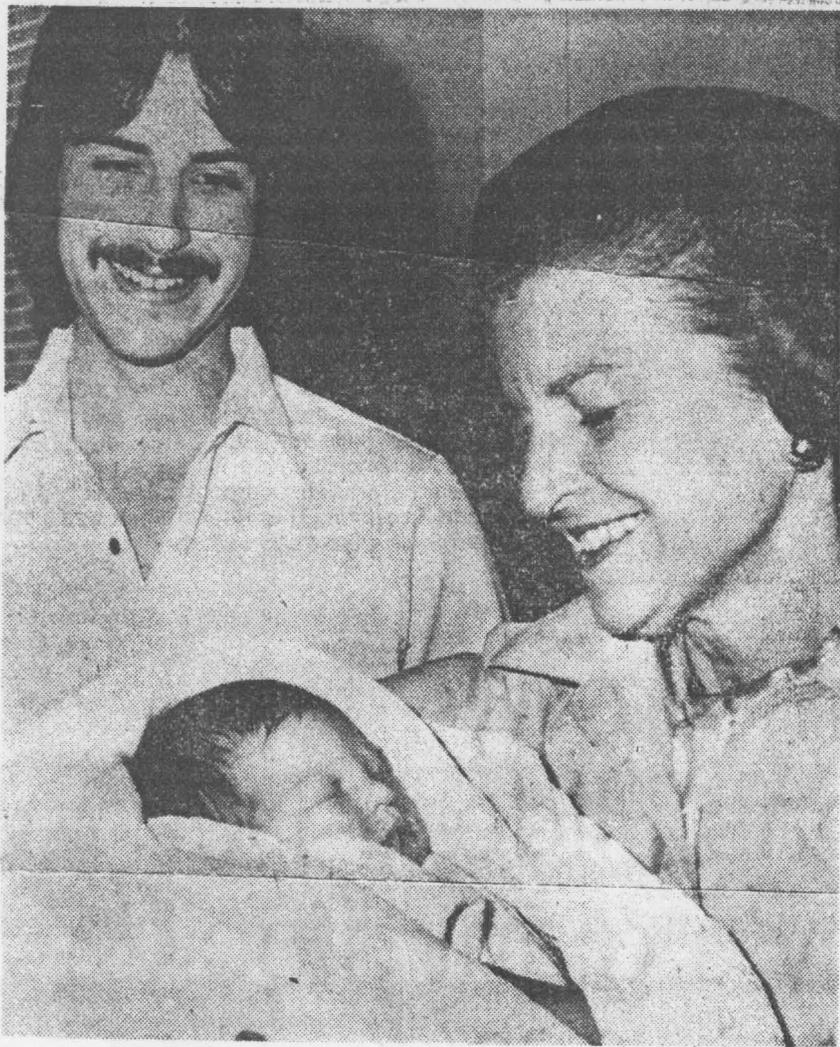
presidential jet.

Please Turn to Page 3, Col. 1

Los Angeles Times VIEW

PART IV

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10, 1974



FIRST LADY BETTY FORD AT HOSPITAL BENEFIT
She holds Jason Lucia while father, John, looks on.

—UPI Photo

Betty Ford: Every woman for herself

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.
— Donning a gray surg-

So hasn't

As for the abortion is-
sue, she said she would
obey the Supreme Court
as the law of the land.

game

EYE



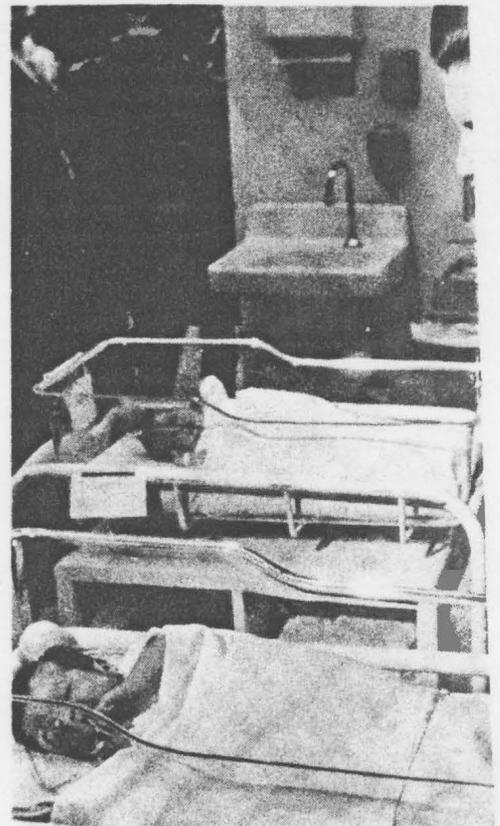
Betty Ford and Cicely Tyson



Pat Buckley, Robert Wolders



Yvonne Braithwaite Burke and Cornelia Wallace



Betty Ford at the incubator unit in St

Photos by Guy De Lort

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — It was a tribute to women — and Legendary Women at that — when Birmingham hosted Gala II — a two-day,

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lady, with her entourage, was hustled off by the Secret Service for an earlier-than-expected departure due to hurricane reports.

— NANCY COLLINS



and Merle Oberon



Vincent's Hospital

ball game



Pet Buckley, Robert Wolders, Marle Oberon



Betty Ford and Cicely Tyson



Marion Javits



Grace Warnecke





United Press International

Mrs. Ford dons a sterile gown and scrubs up on a visit to an Alabama hospital.

First Lady Assumes Children Tried Pot

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 7 (UPI)—First Lady Betty Ford said today she is certain her four children have experimented with marijuana and pot laws, however, Mrs. Ford said, "I think that is a possibility."