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**THE WHITE HOUSE**


**WASHINGTON**

**July 31, 1975**

Mr. Nessen,

If you have not already seen these wires, they are a collection by Helen Thomas and other U.P.I. writers on the President's first year in office. They ran on the 27th and 28th for release on the 3rd of August or after. They include articles on the President and the Press, relations with Congress, policies, family, etc., etc. .

Larry Brock



ADVISORY 7-29.

## WEEKEND-SUNDAY SHOWCASE MEMO:

PRESIDENT FORD IS APPROACHING THE END OF HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE IN GOOD HEALTH, IN COMMAND OF THE JOB, AND CAMPAIGNING FOR ELECTION. AN EXTENSIVE UPI LAY-OUT ON HIS FIRST YEAR IN THE WHITE HOUSE, SPEAR-HEADED BY A 1,200-WORD DISPATCH BY WHITE HOUSE REPORTER HELEN THOMAS, HAS MOVED ON THESE WIRES FOR RELEASE SUNDAY AUG. 3 OR THEREAFTER. MISS THOMAS' STORY MOVED SUNDAY 7-27 AS A311 AND A312. ACCOMPANYING STORIES INCLUDE A REVIEW OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S PAST YEAR (A315, 7-27), FORD'S POLITICS (A316, 7-27), HIS RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS (A317, 7-27), HIS POLICIES (A319, 7-27), FAMILY (A315, 7-28), HUMOR (A316, 7-28), HEALTH (A317, 7-28), AND RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS (A318, 7-28).

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SOSFORD 7-27

(PICTURE)

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

FORD'S FIRST YEAR:

'I AM VERY HAPPY'

BY HELEN THOMAS

UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- GERALD R. FORD HAS GROWN INTO THE JOB, AND HE LIKES IT IMMENSELY.

A YEAR AGO AUG. 9, THIS ONCE-OBSOURE GRAND RAPIDS CONGRESSMAN IN A PLAIN BUSINESS SUIT SIRODE INTO THE WHITE HOUSE EAST ROOM, SWALLOWED A LUMP IN HIS THROAT AND REPEATED THE SIMPLE OATH THAT MADE HIM 38TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

HE BLINKED BACK TEARS OF EMOTION AT THE HONOR HE HAD NEVER DARED SEEK, APOLOGIZED FOR ACCEPTING IT WITHOUT HIS COUNTRYMEN'S VOTES, AND PROMISED TO REPAY THEIR TRUST WITH OPENNESS AND HONESTY.

TODAY, FORD IS MARKING HIS FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE WITH CONFIDENCE, GROWING POPULARITY AND -- AS THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LOOMS EVER CLOSER -- WITH NO SERIOUS DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGERS IN SIGHT TO DENY HIM A FULL FOUR-YEAR TERM IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

"I AM VERY HAPPY," HE SAYS.

HE CLEARLY RELISHES THE CHALLENGE. HE LOOKS, SOMEONE SAID, AS THOUGH HE IS "INHALING THE PRESIDENCY."

FORD STILL CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY HIS PREDECESSORS CALLED IT THE LONELIEST JOB IN THE WORLD.

"I ENJOY GETTING UP EARLY IN THE MORNING AND THINKING OF ALL THE PROBLEMS I HAVE TO WORK ON, AND I DON'T HURRY AWAY AT NIGHT BECAUSE I WANT TO FINISH WHAT WE HAVE OF THE AGENDA," HE TOLD A RECENT VISITOR.

FROM THE ONSET, FORD SET HIS OWN EASYGOING STYLE. HE JOKED CASUALLY WITH REPORTERS AND TOASTED HIS OWN ENGLISH MUFFINS FOR BREAKFAST. HE YANKED THE NIXON TAPE MICROPHONES OUT OF THE OVAL OFFICE AND PROPPED HIS FEET UP ON THE DESK.

THE LONG NIGHTMARE WAS OVER, AND THE NATION HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF.

ALTHOUGH HE PREVIOUSLY HAD PROMISED HIS WIFE, BETTY, HE WOULD QUIT POLITICS AFTER 25 YEARS IN CONGRESS, FORD CHANGED HIS MIND AFTER ONLY A FEW DAYS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

HE DECIDED TO SEEK ELECTION IN HIS OWN RIGHT IN NOVEMBER, 1976. HE ALSO QUIETLY DETERMINED HE WOULD GRANT RICHARD M. NIXON AN EARLY PARDON, PARTLY TO KEEP WATERGATE FROM HANGING OVER HIS POLITICAL FUTURE, HIS AIDES SAID.

FORD'S BOMBSHELL ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PARDON, MADE ON A QUIET SUNDAY MORNING LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER NIXON RESIGNED, STIRRED CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SUSPICIONS. HIS POPULARITY RATING IN THE POLLS FELL 16 PER CENT OVERNIGHT.

TODAY, FORD SAYS HE IS CONVINCED IT WAS "ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I MADE," AND GLAD SOME OF THE PRESS NOW AGREES.

AT FIRST, FORD'S CAUTIOUS MOVES LED MANY TO SUSPECT HE WAS MERELY A CARETAKER PRESIDENT. HIS STRENUOUS CAMPAIGNING FOR GOP CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES LAST FALL PROVED LITTLE HELP AGAINST THE WATERGATE BACKLASH.

HIS WIFE UNDERWENT BREAST CANCER SURGERY, AND FORD TOOK IT HARD. AIDES SAY THE FAMILY CRISIS WAS FORD'S "WORST TIME" IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

FROM THE BEGINNING, TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS HAVE DOMINATED THE FORD PRESIDENCY -- THE TROUBLED ECONOMY AND GROWING ENERGY SHORTAGES. "WE ARE JUST TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF POTENTIAL DISASTER IF WE DON'T MOVE NOW FOR A SOLUTION, RIGHT AWAY, AND CERTAINLY A SOLUTION OVER THE NEXT DECADE," FORD HAS SAID.

HE FINDS ENERGY "THE MOST FRUSTRATING PROBLEM" OF ALL. AFTER A YEAR, HE CLEARLY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RALLY THE PUBLIC BEHIND HIS PLANS. HE BLAMES THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS FOR THE STALEMATE, BUT CONGRESS WON'T BUY HIS SOLUTION OF RAISING PRICES TO DISCOURAGE OIL CONSUMPTION AND CONSERVE SUPPLIES.

THE PRESIDENT CLAIMS SOME SUCCESS, HOWEVER, IN TURNING THE RECESSION AROUND AND CHIPPING AWAY AT INFLATION, EVEN THOUGH UNEMPLOYMENT CLIMBED TO THE 9 PER CENT LEVEL. FORD BELIEVES THE RECESSION IS "BOTTOMED OUT" AND THAT ECONOMIC RECOVERY LIES AHEAD.

MORE

UPI 87-27 89:55 PLO

A A

503FORD 7-27

1ST ADD FORD WASHINGTON (HFR 8-3 RLS) X X X AHEAD.

IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FORD BEGAN WITH "ME 100" APPROVAL OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S EVERY INITIATIVE, BUT HE HAS GRADUALLY MOVED TO TAKE COMMAND AFTER CONFIDENCE-BUILDING TRAVELS TO VLADIVOSTOK, ASIA AND EUROPE.

AFTER AN ORDERLY U.S. EVACUATION FROM VIETNAM, FORD WON ALMOST UNIVERSAL PUBLIC ACCLAIM FOR HIS STEADY, DECISIVE ACTION TO GAIN THE RELEASE OF THE MAYAGUEZ AND HER CREW. KISSINGER SAYS HE IS IMPRESSED WITH FORD'S GRASP OF FOREIGN ISSUES AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

IN CIVIL RIGHTS, FORD SEEMS TO FIT THE CLICHE VIEW OF REPUBLICANS AS DEFENDERS OF THE STATUS QUO MORE THAN HE FOLLOWS THE EXAMPLE SET BY HIS FAVORITE PRESIDENT, HARRY S. TRUMAN. FORD DENIES HE IS INSENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF MINORITIES AND THE POOR, BUT HIS CRITICS SAY HE HAS DONE LITTLE BEYOND EXPANDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE.

THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE CAN GOVERN BY VETO, A DEVICE HE HAS USED FREELY AND SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST THE DISORGANIZED DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN CONGRESS. WHITE HOUSE WIS SAYS HIS ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY OF MAXIMUM FREE ENTERPRISE IN THE MARKETPLACE PUTS HIM "TO THE RIGHT OF ADAM SMITH."

FOR RELAXATION, FORD ENJOYS A ROUND OF GOLF WITH FRIENDS FROM HIS BUSINESS AT THE EXCLUSIVE BURNING TREE COUNTRY CLUB IN SUBURBAN MARYLAND. A SHELTERED POOL WAS BUILT ON THE WHITE HOUSE SOUTH LAWN WITH PRIVATE DONATIONS SO FORD COULD RESUME TAKING HIS CUSTOM OF SWIMMING TWICE A DAY TO KEEP IN SHAPE.

THE PRESIDENT, 6 FEET 1 AND WEIGHING 195 TO 200 POUNDS, WALKS WITH THE EASY GRACE OF AN ATHLETE. AT 62, HIS HEALTH IS EXCELLENT, EXCEPT FOR A TRICK KNEE THAT CAUSES HIM TO STUMBLE OCCASIONALLY. HE HAS UNDERGONE TWO KNEE OPERATIONS AS A RESULT OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL INJURIES.

ON THE PERSONAL SIDE, HE IS NOT A GIFTED ORATOR, AND HIS JOKES IN PUBLIC SPEECHES TEND TO FALL FLAT. HE HAS THE COMFORTABLE LOOK OF A PIPE SMOKER, AND HE USUALLY LAUGHS WHEN HE IS NERVOUS.

HE WEARS GLASSES FOR READING. HIS WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN, DR. WILLIAM LUKASH, HAD HIM FITTED FOR CONTACT LENSES, BUT FORD COULD NOT GET USED TO THEM. HE LIKES MARTINIS WITH AN OLIVE, AND COTTAGE CHEESE SPLASHED WITH A-1 SAUCE.

WHEN THE PRESIDENT WALKS INTO A ROOM, THE MARINE BAND IS MORE LIKELY TO SKIP THE TRADITIONAL "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" AND PLAY INSTEAD "HAIL TO THE VICTORS," THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN FIGHT SONG.

HE WORKS COMFORTABLY WITH HIS TOP STAFF. HE BELIEVES HIS WIDE DAILY CONTACTS OUTSIDE THE OVAL OFFICE WILL PREVENT ISOLATION BY A NIXON-STYLE PALACE GUARD OF CLOSE ADVISERS.

HE IS CLOSER TO HIS WIFE AND FAMILY IN THE WHITE HOUSE THAN HIS YEARS IN CONGRESS, WHEN POLITICAL DEMANDS FREQUENTLY KEPT HIM AWAY FROM HOME. THE PRESIDENT HAS CURTAILED COVERAGE OF WHITE HOUSE SOCIAL EVENTS, BUT REPORTERS ALLOWED TO VIEW AFTER-DINNER ENTERTAINMENT SAY FORD MATCHES LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S ENTHUSIASM FOR DANCING.

THE PRESIDENT'S RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS CORPS ARE GOOD. HE SEEMS TO ENJOY NEWS CONFERENCES, WHICH HE HOLDS NEARLY TWICE A MONTH, AND HAS GIVEN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS TO PRESS AND TELEVISION CORRESPONDENTS.

FORD DISPLAYS AN INNER CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY ABOUT HIS ABILITIES, SHRUGS OFF LINGERING QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS INTELLECT AND REGARDS HIMSELF AS A CONSERVATIVE TO FIT THE TIMES.

HE OFFERS NO GRAND VISION OF THE FUTURE, NO DRAMATIC INITIATIVES. HE WANTS TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY, MAKE THE NATION SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ENERGY AND BUILD ON HIS PREDECESSOR'S WORK TOWARD LASTING PEACE.

IF FORD HAS A VISION, IT MIGHT BE FOUND IN HIS RECENT PRE-CAMPAIGN SPEECHES CALLING FOR A NEW AMERICAN ERA OF INDIVIDUAL SELF-RELIANCE.

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 07-27 10:07 PED

A H

S03POLITICS 7-27

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

WITH FORD

FORD IN '76:

WATCH THE ECONOMY

BY ARNOLD SAWISLAK

UPI POLITICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOW PRESIDENT FORD AHEAD OF ALL POTENTIAL ELECTION RIVALS IN 1976. BUT THOSE AREN'T THE NUMBERS THE POLITICIANS ARE WATCHING MOST CLOSELY THESE DAYS.

IT IS THE ECONOMIC INDICATORS -- THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, UNEMPLOYMENT, PERSONAL INCOME -- THAT ARE HOLDING THE ATTENTION OF THOSE WHO WILL PLAN AND DIRECT THE BICENTENNIAL PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS.

IF THE ECONOMY IS IN GOOD SHAPE OR CLEARLY IMPROVING THIS FALL AND NEXT SPRING, SO WILL BE FORD'S ELECTION CHANCES. IF RECESSION AND INFLATION CONTINUE OR GET WORSE, IT WILL BE BAD NEWS FOR THE PRESIDENT AND GOOD NEWS FOR HIS PROSPECTIVE CHALLENGERS IN EITHER PARTY.

UNTIL THEN, PRE-CAMPAIGN POLITICKING WILL BE A BATTLE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS: FORD AND HIS SUPPORTERS WAVING SHEAFS OF FIGURES AS EVIDENCE THE WORST IS OVER; THE OPPOSITION COUNTERING WITH "IT AIN'T SO" CHARTS SHOWING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND ESCALATING ENERGY PRICES.

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS HAVE RISEN TO THE TOP OF THE POLITICAL HEAP NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY ARE CLASSIC "BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUES AFFECTING EVERYONE, BUT BECAUSE FORD HAS BEEN ABLE TO NEUTRALIZE OR BLUNT OTHERS THAT WERE POTENTIALLY DAMAGING.

THE MOST OBVIOUS EXAMPLE IS WATERGATE. WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE A YEAR AGO, FORD'S MOST PRESSING POLITICAL TASK WAS TO KEEP THE TAINI OF HIS PREDECESSOR'S SCANDALS FROM CRIPPLING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

FORD TOOK AN ENORMOUS RISK TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BY PARDONING RICHARD NIXON AT THE OUTSET. IT SURELY WILL COST HIM SOME VOTER SUPPORT EVEN IN NOVEMBER, 1976, BUT THE INITIAL FUROR HAS DIED DOWN, AND FORD'S NEW, OPEN DEMEANOR HAS HELPED RESTORE SOME MEASURE OF PUBLIC TRUST IN THE MAN AND THE OFFICE.

ANOTHER BIG TASK WAS TO ESTABLISH HIS LEADERSHIP. THE MAYAGUEZ SEIZURE ENABLED FORD TO SHOW AMERICANS AND THE REST OF THE WORLD HE WAS DECISIVE IN A CRISIS. HE DISPLAYED STABILITY BY ACCEPTING DEFEAT IN INDOCHINA AND PURSUING DELENTE WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS MAY HAVE SOLVED SOME OF FORD'S LEADERSHIP IDENTITY PROBLEMS. UNTIL THE DEMOCRATS GOT INTO THE ACT, FORD MADE A POOR IMPRESSION WITH HIS ENERGY EFFORTS AND THE ABORTIVE WIN CAMPAIGN AGAINST INFLATION. BUT BY ADVANCING ECONOMIC RECOVERY BILLS THEY COULD NOT PASS OVER FORD'S VETOES AND BY FALLING INTO DISARRAY OVER AN ENERGY PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN, THE DEMOCRATS MADE THE PRESIDENT LOOK STRONG AND SURE-FOOTED BY COMPARISON.

ALL THIS DOES NOT MEAN FORD'S ONLY WORRY FOR 1976 IS THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY. HE HAS A REAL PROBLEM RIGHT IN HIS ONLY PARTY.

A STRONG-WILLED GROUP OF GOP CONSERVATIVES BELIEVES NIXON LET THEM DOWN, AND THEY DO NOT INTEND TO LET FORD LEAD THEM DOWN ANOTHER PRIMROSE PATH. THEY ARE UNHAPPY WITH FORD'S CHOICE OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER, THEIR OLD NEMESIS, AS VICE PRESIDENT, HIS DECISION TO ACCEPT HEAVY DEFICIT SPENDING AS AN ANTI-INFLATION WEAPON AND -- PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTH -- HIS SUPPORT FOR EXTENDING THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

THE CONSERVATIVES ARE THREATENING TO CHALLENGE FORD FOR THE GOP NOMINATION OR TO STRIKE OUT ON A THIRD PARTY PRESIDENTIAL EFFORT BEHIND RONALD REAGAN'S BANNER.

THE FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR HAS ALL BUT TORPEDOED THEIR IDEA OF LEADING A CONSERVATIVE THIRD PARTY, AND HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO CHALLENGE FORD WITH ANYTHING BUT RHETORIC. STILL, AS FORD'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE ENDS, REAGAN HAS A FLEDGLING CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATION WORKING AND THE MORE MILITANT GOP CONSERVATIVES ARE DEEP INTO THE NECESSARY LEGAL SPADEWORK FOR MOUNTING A SERIOUS THIRD PARTY CAMPAIGN.

THE CONSERVATIVES' UNREST WORRIES FORD AND HIS STRATEGISTS, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE AN INTERNAL SPLIT WOULD HAVE ON THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF A PARTY WHOSE SURVEYS SHOW IT COMMANDS THE ALLEGIANCE OF ONLY 18 PER CENT OF THE ELECTORATE.

A GALLUP POLL IN JULY INDICATED FORD HAD LITTLE REASON TO FEAR REAGAN -- THAT REPUBLICANS PREFERRED HIM OVER THE CALIFORNIAN BY 61 TO 33 PER CENT. BUT ROCKEFELLER IS ANOTHER MATTER.

SO INTENSE IS GOP RIGHTWING OPPOSITION TO ROCKEFELLER AS THE LIBERAL INCARNATE THAT FORD, WHILE WARMLY PRAISING HIM, HAS MADE CLEAR THAT ROCKEFELLER MUST GO OUT AND WIN RANK-AND-FILE SUPPORT FOR HIMSELF. FORD'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER WENT FURTHER AND SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS "KEEPING A VERY OPEN MIND" ABOUT HIS 1976 RUNNING MATE.

THE DEMOCRATS, MEANWHILE, ARE GIVING FORD ALL THE TIME HE NEEDS TO GET HIS POLITICAL DUCKS IN A ROW. AS OF MID-JULY, NO FEWER THAN SIX DEMOCRATS HAD ANNOUNCED THEIR CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, AND AS MANY AS SIX OTHERS WERE RATED AS POSSIBILITIES. NO ONE STANDS OUT IN THAT BIG A CROWD, AND NO DEMOCRAT SEEMS LIKELY TO EMERGE TO CHALLENGE FORD UNTIL WELL INTO THE SPRING PRIMARIES.

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 07-27 10:42 PED



555CONGRESS 7-27

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

WITH FORD

FORD AND CONGRESS:

MR. NICE GUY IS ALSO TOUGH

BY STEVE GERSTEL

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SPEAKING AS PRESIDENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHERE HE HAD SERVED A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, GERALD R. FORD PROMISED CONGRESS "COMMUNICATION, CONCILIATION, COMPROMISE AND COOPERATION."

NO WORDS COULD HAVE BEEN MORE WELCOME. FOR FIVE AND A HALF TORTURED YEARS, CONGRESS HAD BEEN IGNORED, FRUSTRATED AND REJECTED BY RICHARD M. NIXON AND HIS ADMINISTRATION.

ADDRESSING A JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE THREE DAYS AFTER HE SUCCEEDED NIXON, FORD HELD OUT THE PROSPECT OF A NEW, WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS. "I DO NOT WANT A HONEYMOON WITH YOU," FORD TOLD HIS OLD COMRADES. "I WANT A GOOD MARRIAGE."

A YEAR LATER, REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ON CAPITOL HILL ARE INCLINED TO AGREE THAT FORD HAS KEPT HIS PLEDGE. BUT THEY ALSO HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE GENIAL, SOMETIMES EASILY PLIABLE MAN THEY KNEW AS HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER HAD BECOME TOUGH, POLITICAL AND SURPRISINGLY STRONG AS PRESIDENT.

BACK IN JANUARY, IT WAS CONGRESS THAT LOOKED TOUGH. THE NEWLY ELECTED 94TH WAS SO HEAVY WITH DEMOCRATS IT PROMISED TO BE "VEIO-PROOF." HALLUCINATED BY THEIR NUMBERS, THE DEMOCRATS WERE READY TO JAM THEIR PROPOSALS DOWN FORD'S THROAT AND REJECT HIS.

BUT BY MID-YEAR, FORD HAD MORE THAN HELD HIS OWN, FORCING CONGRESS TO MAKE ITS PROGRAMS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM. OF THE NINE BILLS HE HAD VETOED, CONGRESS TRIED AND FAILED TO PASS FOUR OVER HIS OBJECTIONS AND MADE NO ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE THE OTHERS.

IN SEVERAL CASES, SUCH AS THE PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED, CONGRESS CAME BACK WITH A BILL FORD ACCEPTED.

ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT CAN CLAIM PART OF THE CREDIT BY MAINTAINING UNUSUALLY TIGHT DISCIPLINE WITHIN REPUBLICAN RANKS ON IMPORTANT VOTES, THE DEMOCRATS HAVE DOUBTLESS MADE HIS JOB EASIER.

LACKING TOUGH LEADERSHIP AND PARTY DISCIPLINE IN EITHER THE HOUSE OR SENATE, THE DEMOCRATS FREQUENTLY HAVE BEEN AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER, GIVING FORD THE NECESSARY EDGE TO SUSTAIN HIS VETOES.

A PRIME EXAMPLE IS ENERGY POLICY. FOR SIX MONTHS, THE FRAGMENTED DEMOCRATS HAVE TRIED IN VAIN TO PUT TOGETHER AN ALTERNATIVE TO FORD'S PROPOSALS. WHEN THEY DO PASS AN ENERGY BILL, THE MARGIN IS SO SMALL THEY SEE NO POINT IN TRYING TO OVERRIDE A FORD VETO.

FORD HAS FALLEN INTO THE USUAL PRESIDENTIAL TRADITION OF ACCUSING THE OPPOSITION-LED CONGRESS OF OBSTRUCTION, INACTION AND DELAY WHEN THINGS DON'T GO HIS WAY. BUT HE HAS MANAGED TO DO IT WITHOUT STIRRING UP PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS, EVEN AMONG HIS CRITICS.

FOR THEIR PART, SOME LEGISLATORS GRUMBLE ABOUT THE PRESUMPTION OF AN "UNELECTED" REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT TRYING TO DICTATE TO A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS WHICH WON ITS MANDATE AT THE POLLS.

MOST OF IT IS DISMISSED AS HARMLESS POLITICAL SPARRING.

"I SOMETIMES WISH HE WASN'T SUCH A NICE GUY," ONE SENATE DEMOCRAT SAID. "IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO CRITICIZE HIM."

ASSISTANT SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER ROBERT C. BYRD SAYS FORD CREATED A BRIEF "ADVERSE FEELING" WHEN HE PARDONED NIXON, AND AGAIN WHEN HE COMMITTED TROOPS TO THE MAYAGUEZ RESCUE WITHOUT CONSULTING CONGRESS.

BUT, HE ADDS, "ON THE WHOLE, THE RELATIONSHIP IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. THE PICTURE NOW IS A GREAT IMPROVEMENT."

BYRD CREDITS FORD'S ABILITY TO "DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ISSUES AND PERSONALITIES" AND TO REALIZE THE LIMITATIONS OF HIS OFFICE WHEN DEALING WITH CONGRESS.

"WE HAVE OUR DIFFERENCES," BYRD SAID. "EVEN THOUGH WE DISAGREE ON MANY THINGS, WE STILL RESPECT EACH OTHER."

SAID HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER JOHN J. RHODES: "TO MAKE THE POINT THAT GERALD R. FORD KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS LIKE SAYING THAT BOB HOPE CAN TELL JOKES, JACK NICKLAUS CAN PLAY GOLF OR RUDOLF NUREYEV CAN DANCE."

RHODES SAID FORD'S LONG SERVICE IN CONGRESS HAS GIVEN HIM "A TREMENDOUS RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL ON CAPITOL HILL. MOST MEMBERS KNOW HIM PERSONALLY...THIS MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE."

"HE IS A HIGHLY CAPABLE MAN WHO HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH OTHER CAPABLE MEN AND WOMEN. THAT IS A TOUGH COMBINATION TO BEAT."

IN THAT FIRST SPEECH, FORD HAD WARNED CONGRESS HE MEANT BUSINESS. "TONIGHT, OBVIOUSLY, IS NO TIME TO THREATEN YOU WITH VETOES, BUT I DO HAVE THE LAST RECOURSE. AND I AM A VETERAN OF MANY A VETO FIGHT RIGHT HERE IN THIS GREAT CHAMBER."

WHAT CONGRESS HAS DISCOVERED SINCE, AS BYRD SAID, IS THAT "IT'S POSSIBLE TO DISAGREE WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE."

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
 WITH FORD

FORD FOREIGN POLICY:

KISSINGER DELIGHTED

BY RICHARD H. GROWALD

UPI SENIOR EDITOR

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S GRATITUDE AND FIRM SUPPORT, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IS CONCENTRATING HIS PRODIGIOUS ENERGIES ON ACHIEVING A BREAKTHROUGH SOVIET-AMERICAN NUCLEAR ARMS AGREEMENT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

FORD HAS GIVEN KISSINGER A VIRTUALLY FREE HAND TO PURSUE THE SAME GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY GOALS HE BEGAN MORE THAN SIX YEARS AGO UNDER RICHARD M. NIXON. FOREMOST AMONG THOSE GOALS, IN KISSINGER'S MIND, IS ARMS CONTROL.

IN TURN, KISSINGER IS KNOWN TO RESPECT THE READY GRASP OF FOREIGN ISSUES THAT FORD HAS DISPLAYED DURING HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE.

AT ONE POINT, KISSINGER REPORTED WITH NO LITTLE SURPRISE THAT FORD WAS NO GUM CHEWER IN FOREIGN POLICY. HE EXPRESSED GENUINE DELIGHT WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN ISSUES AND CONCERN WITH DETAILS, WHICH KISSINGER SAID WAS EVEN GREATER THAN NIXON'S.

THOUGH TOTALLY DIFFERENT IN PERSONALITY AND STYLE, THE TWO MEN SEEM TO HAVE BUILT A QUICK, EASY WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT SERVES EACH WELL.

AND DESPITE UNRELENTING CRITICISM FROM SUCH DETRACIORS AS SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., KISSINGER SHOWS NO SIGNS OF INTENDING TO QUIT BEFORE THE END OF FORD'S CURRENT TERM. AND FORD SHOWS NO SIGNS OF WANTING HIM TO LEAVE.

AS FORD AND KISSINGER ENTER THEIR SECOND YEAR OF COLLABORATION, KISSINGER THE HARVARD SCHOLAR ALSO IS A REALIST ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF ENGINEERING A PERMANENT WORLD PEACE.

KISSINGER BELIEVES THE MOST HE CAN ACCOMPLISH IS TO KEEP THINGS GOING SMOOTHLY UNTIL HE RESIGNS, AND PERHAPS SO ARRANGE AFFAIRS THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WILL HAVE AS MUCH AS TWO YEARS' GRACE BEFORE THE KISSINGER MAGIC RUNS OUT.

WHEN FORD TOOK OFFICE AND LIFTED THE PALL OF WATERGATE THAT HAD PARALYZED HIS FOREIGN INITIATIVES, KISSINGER RETURNED TO WORK WITH GUSTO. THE FIRST FRUITS CAME TWO MONTHS LATER IN VLADIVOSTOCK, WHERE FORD AND SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LEONID I. BREZHNEV SEALED AGREEMENT TO HALT THE COSTLY PLUNGE INTO ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS.

FORD AND BREZHNEV ALSO AGREED TO WORK ON A TREATY THAT WOULD LIMIT EACH COUNTRY'S NUMBER OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. TRANSLATING THAT DESIRE INTO REALITY HAS BEEN FORD'S AND KISSINGER'S THEME THIS YEAR.

THE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE SIGNED AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS FALL DURING BREZHNEV'S PLANNED VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

ARMS CONTROL HAS DOMINATED EVERY KISSINGER CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS THIS YEAR. ALL ELSE, BY CONTRAST, IS A SIDE SHOW.

VIETNAM IS PAST. THE MAN WHO WON A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR HIS ROLE IN EXTRICATING THE UNITED STATES FROM WAR CURTLY DISMISSED CRITICS WHO SAID HE HAD FAILED WHEN INDOCHINA FELL TO THE COMMUNISTS. THE PUBLIC ONLY WANTED TO GET OUT OF VIETNAM, HE SAID, NOT SAVE IT.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, KISSINGER'S BASIC CONCERN IN THE CONTINUING ISRAELI-ARAB CONFRONTATION IS TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS, WHICH ARE DOMINATED BY THE OIL THAT FEEDS AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND U.S. ALLIES IN EUROPE.

THERE IS NO QUESTION THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL IS BASED ALSO ON PUBLIC SENTIMENT, ILLUSTRATED BY THE LETTER OF SUPPORT WHICH 76 SENATORS SENT FORD THIS SPRING. BUT KISSINGER BELIEVES ISRAEL'S BEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE LIES IN ACCOMMODATING ITSELF TO AMERICAN INTERESTS, AND A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT IS VITAL TO THOSE INTERESTS.

KISSINGER IS ARRANGING A FORD VISIT TO PEKING LATER THIS YEAR. THE AIM IS NOT TO REVIVE THE SPECIER OF AMERICA AS A POWER ON THE ASIAN MAINLAND BUT TO KEEP ALIVE KISSINGER'S POLICY OF PLAYING THE TWO COMMUNIST GIANTS, RUSSIA AND CHINA, AGAINST EACH OTHER.

KISSINGER THE PRAGMATIST DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS STRATEGY WILL WORK FOREVER, BUT HE IS SEIZING AN OPPORTUNITY THAT EXISTS WHILE THE AGING MAO TSE-TUNG AND CHOU EN-LAI ARE STILL ALIVE. HE BELIEVES THEIR SUCCESSORS WILL BE SORELY TEMPTED TO MAKE A BID TO CLOSE THE GAP WITH MOSCOW.

THUS FORD AND KISSINGER MAY BE MOVING AGAINST A DEADLINE IN CHINA. ANOTHER DEADLINE CONCERNS BREZHNEV'S LONGEVITY IN OFFICE.

BY THE TIME OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY, BREZHNEV WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO EXHIBIT THE FRUITS OF HIS POLICY OF DETENTE WITH AMERICA. THE CHOICEST EXAMPLE WOULD BE AN OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS LIMITATION AGREEMENT.

IN THE PAST YEAR, KISSINGER ALSO HAS WORKED HIS USUAL SEVEN-DAY WEEKS TRYING TO RALLY THE WEST ON JOINT ACTION TO SOLVE ENERGY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WITH FORD'S APPARENT BLESSING, HE HAS BEGUN TOURING THE COUNTRY EXPLAINING HIS GEOPOLITICS AND CAPITALIZING ON

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S03FAMILY 7-27

(PICTURE)

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

THE FIRST FAMILY:

AT HOME IN THE WHITE HOUSE

BY HELEN THOMAS

UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FROM FATHER'S DIPS IN THE NEW OUTDOOR POOL TO SUSAN'S SENIOR PROM IN THE EAST ROOM, THE FORDS HAVE MADE THEMSELVES AT HOME IN THE WHITE HOUSE LIKE FEW OTHER PRESIDENTIAL FAMILIES.

THE TONE OF WARMTH AND INFORMALITY IS MAINTAINED BY BETTY FORD, WHO CONFESSES SHE WAS SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT BECOMING FIRST LADY A YEAR AGO BUT SEEMS TO HAVE ACCEPTED HER ROLE WITH POISE AND CONFIDENCE.

THERE IS AN AIR OF COMFORTABLE LIVING IN THE BRIGHTLY DECORATED FAMILY QUARTERS ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AND THE MAIDS AND BUTLERS FOLLOWING MRS. FORD'S INSTRUCTIONS NO LONGER SEEM TO WALK AROUND ON TIPTOE.

WHEN SHE DISCUSSES FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS WITH HER STAFF, MRS. FORD USUALLY DOES IT OVER A BITE OF LUNCH RATHER THAN THE TELEPHONE.

SHE IS REFRESHINGLY HONEST, AND THE MOST CANDID FIRST LADY IN RECENT MEMORY. SHE HAS TAKEN A STRONG STAND IN FAVOR OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND ABORTION, AND ALLOWS THAT SOME OF HER SONS MIGHT HAVE TRIED MARIJUANA.

SHE WILL TAKE A DRINK OR SMOKE A CIGARETTE IN PUBLIC, UNLIKE MOST OF HER PREDECESSORS.

MRS. FORD SHOULDERED THE BURDEN OF REARING THEIR FOUR CHILDREN DURING THE 25 YEARS HER HUSBAND WAS A CAMPAIGNING CONGRESSMAN. HE HAD PROMISED TO QUIT POLITICS, BUT SHE FORGAVE HIM THAT PLEDGE THE MOMENT HE BECAME PRESIDENT.

NOW, ESPECIALLY AFTER HER SURGERY FOR BREAST CANCER IN SEPTEMBER, MRS. FORD SAYS SHE TAKES LIFE "ONE DAY AT A TIME." BUT SHE SPEAKS ENTHUSIASTICALLY OF CAMPAIGNING IN 1976, SEEKING TO DISPEL ANY SUGGESTIONS HER HUSBAND MIGHT NOT SEEK ELECTION BECAUSE OF HER HEALTH.

THE FORDS' MOVE INTO THE WHITE HOUSE FROM THEIR UNPRETENTIOUS BRICK HOME IN SUBURBAN ALEXANDRIA, VA., HAS HAD LITTLE NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON THEIR FREEDOM TO ENJOY THEIR FORMER FAMILY PURSUITS.

THEY STILL GATHER AT VAIL, COLO., FOR A CHRISTMAS SKIING HOLIDAY. THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE REGULARLY ATTEND SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES, NOW ACROSS LAFAYETTE PARK AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. AND WITH THE ADDITION OF A POOL BEHIND HIS WEST WING OFFICES, BUILT WITH PRIVATE DONATIONS, FORD ONCE AGAIN TAKE HIS CUSTOMARY TWICE-DAILY SWIMS.

THE FORDS' BLONDE, BLUE-EYED DAUGHTER SUSAN, 18, IS A FAMILIAR SIGHT AROUND THE WHITE HOUSE, LOUGING IN BLUE JEANS, ENTERTAINING FRIENDS AT A CASUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY OR FORMAL GRADUATION CLASS DANCE, PRACTICING HER CAMERA WORK ALONGSIDE PRESS CORPS PHOTOGRAPHERS.

AFTER HER SUMMER JOB AS AN INTERN PHOTOGRAPHER WITH THE TOPEKA, KAN., DAILY CAPITAL AND STATE JOURNAL, SUSAN WILL ENTER MOUNT VERNON JUNIOR COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON AS A FRESHMAN. SHE HAS FREQUENT DATES, BUT NO CURRENT STEADY, AND LOVES TO SKI AND SWIM WITH TYPICAL FORD VIGOR.

THE MOST POLITICALLY MINDED MEMBER OF THE FAMILY BESIDES THE PRESIDENT IS SON JACK, 23, WHO WAS GRADUATED IN JUNE FROM UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY AS A FORESTRY MAJOR. HE IS SPENDING THE SUMMER AT THE WHITE HOUSE OBSERVING HIS FATHER'S WORK AND PREPARING FOR A ROLE IN THE 1976 GOP ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

SON STEVE, 19, TOOK OFF THE PAST YEAR TO WORK AS A RANCH HAND IN MONTANA BEFORE HE ENTERS COLLEGE, AND IS SPENDING THE SUMMER STUDYING GRIZZLY BEARS AND RODEO RIDING IN THE WEST. PASSERSBY OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE FENCE USUALLY CAN TELL WHEN STEVE IS HOME, BECAUSE HE PARKS HIS BRIGHT YELLOW JEEP IN THE WHITE HOUSE DRIVEWAY.

THE ELDEST SON, MIKE, 25, AND HIS WIFE GAYLE, LIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS, WHERE MIKE IS WORKING ON A MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY AT GORDON-CONWELL SEMINARY IN SOUTH HAMILTON.

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 87-26 10:57 PLD

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S03HUMOR 7-28

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

BY RICHARD H. GROWALD  
UPI SENIOR EDITOR

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD STEPPED BACK FROM THE CAMERAS AND MICROPHONES, TUCKED THE NOTES OF HIS SPEECH INTO A JACKET POCKET AND TURNED TO HIS SON JACK, 23.

"PRETTY GOOD SPEECH," JACK SAID. "NOT THAT I AGREE WITH IT, OF COURSE."

FORD LAUGHED AND REPLIED, "YOU WOULD NEVER AGREE." JACK, WHO IS MORE LIBERAL THAN HIS FATHER ON SEVERAL ISSUES, GRINNED APPRECIATELY.

HUMOR HAS RETURNED TO THE WHITE HOUSE. PERHAPS NOT SINCE JOHN F. KENNEDY'S DAYS HAS THE WHITE HOUSE SO FREQUENTLY ECHOED WITH CHUCKLING AND LAUGHTER.

THE HUMOR OF THE FORD PRESIDENCY USUALLY IS GENTLE AND SELF-DEPRECATING, AN EASYGOING JOSHING QUITE UNLIKE THE KNEE-SLAPPING GUFFAWS OF LYNDON B. JOHNSON OR RICHARD M. NIXON'S STRAINED, SOMEWHAT AWKWARD ATTEMPTS AT PUBLIC HUMOR.

TYPICALLY, FORD HIMSELF MADE THE FIRST JOKE ABOUT THE TRICK KNEE THAT CAUSED HIM TO SLIP AND STUMBLE DOWN THE STEPS OF THE RAMP ON HIS ARRIVAL IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, IN JUNE: "WE OUGHT TO GET AN ESCALATOR SO I WON'T HAVE ALL THESE PROBLEMS," HE LATER TOLD AIDES WITH A GRIN.

WHEN THE WASHINGTON STAR'S PAT OLIPHANT USED THE INCIDENT AS THE BASIS FOR A CARTOON SUGGESTING IN JEST THE PRESIDENT'S INABILITY TO DESCEND AN AIRPLANE RAMP AND CHEW GUM AT THE SAME TIME, FORD REQUESTED THE ORIGINAL CARTOON FOR HIS COLLECTION.

NOT WIDELY KNOWN IS THE PRESIDENT'S DELIGHT IN POKER-FACED TEASING. SEATED NEXT TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANATOLY DOBRYNIN TO WATCH THE TELEVISED LAUNCHING OF THE SOYUZ SPACECRAFT IN JUNE, FORD TURNED AND SAID, "IF WE DON'T SEE A BIG FLASH, I SUPPOSE THE LAUNCHING MUST BE SUCCESSFUL."

IT TOOK THE DOBRYNIN A WHILE TO REALIZE THE PRESIDENT WAS JOKING.

FORD ENJOYS TRADING JOKES AND PUTDOWNS WITH DAVID HUME KENNERLY, THE YOUNG WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER WHO OFTEN NEEDLES THE PRESIDENT TO TRY TO RELAX HIM DURING TIMES OF STRESS.

KENNERLY RECENTLY FOUND FORD CONCENTRATING ON A PILE OF DOCUMENTS AND JOSHED HIM ABOUT JACK FORD'S BUDDING INTEREST IN POLITICS.

"JACK IS GETTING ON IN POLITICS, MR. PRESIDENT, GETTING AFTER YOUR JOB," KENNERLY SAID.

WITHOUT LOOKING UP, FORD SHOT BACK: "HE CAN HAVE THE BLASTED JOB."

THOSE WHO WORK WITH THE PRESIDENT HAVE COME TO SHARE HIS FONDNESS FOR A LIGHT MOMENT. SECRET SERVICE AGENTS QUIETLY FEED THE PRESIDENT INFORMATION ABOUT KENNERLY'S LATEST FEMALE ESCORT, AND CHIEF OF STAFF DONALD RUMSFELD USED HUMOR TO BREAK THE TENSION IN THE WHITE HOUSE MAP ROOM DURING THE MAYAGUEZ CRISIS.

FORD WAS THE FIRST TO GRIN WHEN RUMSFELD RELAYED AN AIR FORCE GENERAL'S REPORT OF AIR ACTIVITY DURING THE RESCUE MISSION AND ADDED: "NAVY FIGHTER PILOTS, OF COURSE, COULD HAVE DONE IT BETTER."

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 07-28 11:06 PED

A317 HFR 8-3

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S03HEALTH 7-28

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- GERALD R. FORD IS ONE OF THE HEALTHIEST PRESIDENTS IN RECENT TIMES.

ON HIS 62ND BIRTHDAY JULY 14, FORD WAS PRONOUNCED "PHYSICALLY FIT" AFTER DR. WILLIAM LUKASH, THE WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN, GAVE HIM A COMPLETE SEMIANNUAL CHECKUP. ALL TESTS, INCLUDING AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM, WERE NORMAL.

FORD, WHO WALKS WITH THE NATURAL GRACE OF AN ATHLETE, SHOWS LITTLE EVIDENCE AFTER ONE YEAR OF THE AGING THAT THE STRAINS OF THE OFFICE SEEM TO ACCELERATE IN OTHER PRESIDENTS.

FORD'S ONLY PHYSICAL COMPLAINT IS A TRICK KNEE WHICH SOMETIMES CAUSES HIM TO STUMBLE WHEN HE BECOMES FATIGUED. HE UNDERWENT SURGERY ON BOTH KNEES A FEW YEARS AGO AS A RESULT OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL INJURIES.

THE PRESIDENT IS A PHYSICAL FITNESS ADDICT. HE SWIMS TWICE DAILY WHEN HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS, PLAYS TENNIS WITH A KNEE BANDAGE, DOES SOME WEIGHT-LIFTING EXERCISES AND ENJOYS AN OCCASIONAL 18 HOLES OF WEEKEND GOLF WITH FRIENDS AT THE BURNING TREE COUNTRYCLUB IN SUBURBAN MARYLAND.

LUKASH PUT FORD ON A DIET AS SOON AS HE ENTERED THE WHITE HOUSE, AND HIS WEIGHT RANGES BETWEEN 195 AND 200 POUNDS. LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, RICHARD M. NIXON, FORD CURBS HIS APPETITE AT LUNCH WITH COTTAGE CHEESE, BUT SEASONS IT WITH A-1 SAUCE INSTEAD OF CAISUP.

WHEN HE INDULGES HIMSELF, FORD PREFERS STEAK, WITH BUTTER PECAN ICE CREAM FOR DESSERT. HE ALSO ENJOYS A MARTINI WITH AN OLIVE.

AN INVETERATE PIPE SMOKER, FORD SMOKES EIGHT OR 10 PIPEFULS OF TOBACCO A DAY.

THE PRESIDENT'S WORKDAY USUALLY LASTS NEARLY 12 HOURS. WHEN HE LEAVES THE OVAL OFFICE ABOUT 7:30 P.M. EACH DAY, HE OFTEN TAKES SOME PAPERWORK BACK TO THE FAMILY QUARTERS.

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 07-28 11:12 PED

A318 HFR 8-3

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S03PRESS 7-28

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- AFTER THE STORMY NIXON ERA, PRESIDENT FORD HAS ESTABLISHED AN AMIABLE, FAIRLY EASYGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS, WHICH GENERALLY CREDITS HIM WITH BEING OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE.

TRUE TO HIS PROMISE, FORD HELD 17 REGULAR NEWS CONFERENCES DURING HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE, MOST OF THEM TELEVISED, AND HAS GRANTED MORE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS TO NEWSPAPER AND BROADCAST CORRESPONDENTS THAN ANY PRESIDENT IN RECENT MEMORY.

HE SEEMS TO ENJOY HIS NEWS CONFERENCE EXCHANGES WITH REPORTERS. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE PRESS SHOULD COVER HIS SOCIAL LIFE, HOWEVER, AND HAS BARRED REPORTERS FROM WHITE HOUSE RECEPTIONS THAT SOMETIMES INCLUDE HUNDREDS OF TALKATIVE GUESTS.

IT HAS NOT BEEN AS EASY FOR FORD'S PRESS SECRETARIES. THE FIRST, J.F. TERHORST, AN OLD FRIEND AND WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF OF THE DETROIT NEWS, RESIGNED AFTER LESS THAN A MONTH ON THE JOB IN DISAGREEMENT WITH FORD'S PARDON FOR FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON.

TERHORST'S SUCCESSOR, FORMER NBC TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT RONALD NESSEN, DECLARED A GOAL OF CLEARING THE AIR OF WATERGATE HOSTILITIES IN THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM.

BUT OVER THE MONTHS, NESSEN CAME UNDER INCREASINGLY TOUGH AND SKEPTICAL QUESTIONING AT WHITE HOUSE NEWS BRIEFINGS. HE FINALLY BLEW UP IN PUBLIC, ACCUSING REPORTERS OF BEING "BLIND AND MISTRUSTFUL."

FORD SAYS NESSEN HAS DONE A "DARN FINE JOB" IN A DIFFICULT JOB. "I DON'T KNOW WHY HIS CREDIBILITY SHOULD BE ATTACKED," FORD HAS SAID. "I THINK IT IS UNFAIR TO SAY THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING AND NOT BEEN OPEN."

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
UPI 07-28 11:17 PED

A318

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ADVISORY 7-29.

WEEKEND-SUNDAY SHOWCASE MEMO:

PRESIDENT FORD IS APPROACHING THE END OF HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE IN GOOD HEALTH, IN COMMAND OF THE JOB, AND CAMPAIGNING FOR ELECTION. AN EXTENSIVE UPI LAY-OUT ON HIS FIRST YEAR IN THE WHITE HOUSE, SPERR-HEADED BY A 1,200-WORD DISPATCH BY WHITE HOUSE REPORTER HELEN THOMAS, HAS MOVED ON THESE WIRES FOR RELEASE SUNDAY AUG. 3 OR THEREAFTER. MISS THOMAS' STORY MOVED SUNDAY 7-27 AS A311 AND A312. ACCOMPANYING STORIES INCLUDE A REVIEW OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S PAST YEAR (A315, 7-27); FORD'S POLITICS (A316, 7-27); HIS RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS (A317, 7-27); HIS POLICIES (A319, 7-27); FAMILY (A315, 7-28); HUMOR (A316, 7-28); HEALTH (A317, 7-28); AND RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS (A318, 7-28).

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S33FORD 7-27

(PICTURE)

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

FORD'S FIRST YEAR:

'I AM VERY HAPPY'

BY HELEN THOMAS

UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- GERALD R. FORD HAS GROWN INTO THE JOB, AND HE LIKES IT IMMENSELY.

A YEAR AGO AUG. 9, THIS ONCE-OBSOURE GRAND RAPIDS CONGRESSMAN IN A PLAIN BUSINESS SUIT SIRODE INTO THE WHITE HOUSE EAST ROOM, STALLED A LUMP IN HIS THROAT AND REPEATED THE SIMPLE OATH THAT MADE HIM 38TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

HE BLINKED BACK TEARS OF EMOTION AT THE HONOR HE HAD NEVER DARED SEEK, APOLOGIZED FOR ACCEPTING IT WITHOUT HIS COUNTRYMEN'S VOTES, AND PROMISED TO REPAY THEIR TRUST WITH OPENNESS AND HONESTY.

TODAY, FORD IS MARKING HIS FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE WITH CONFIDENCE, GROWING POPULARITY AND -- AS THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LOOMS EVER CLOSER -- WITH NO SERIOUS DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGERS IN SIGHT TO DENY HIM A FULL FOUR-YEAR TERM IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

"I AM VERY HAPPY," HE SAYS.

HE CLEARLY RELISHES THE CHALLENGE. HE LOOKS, SOMEONE SAID, AS THOUGH HE IS "INHALING THE PRESIDENCY."

FORD STILL CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY HIS-PREDECESSORS CALLED IT THE LONELIEST JOB IN THE WORLD.

"I ENJOY GETTING UP EARLY IN THE MORNING AND THINKING OF ALL THE PROBLEMS I HAVE TO WORK ON, AND I DON'T HURRY AWAY AT NIGHT BECAUSE I WANT TO FINISH WHAT WE HAVE OF THE AGENDA," HE TOLD A RECENT VISITOR.

FROM THE OUTSET, FORD SET HIS OWN EASYGOING STYLE. HE JOKED CASUALLY WITH REPORTERS AND TOASTED HIS OWN ENGLISH MUFFINS FOR BREAKFAST. HE YANKED THE NIXON TAPE MICROPHONES OUT OF THE OVAL OFFICE AND PROPPED HIS FEET UP ON THE DESK.

THE LONG NIGHTMARE WAS OVER, AND THE NATION HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF.

ALTHOUGH HE PREVIOUSLY HAD PROMISED HIS WIFE, BETTY, HE WOULD QUIT POLITICS AFTER 25 YEARS IN CONGRESS, FORD CHANGED HIS MIND AFTER ONLY A FEW DAYS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

HE DECIDED TO SEEK ELECTION IN HIS OWN RIGHT IN NOVEMBER, 1976. HE ALSO QUIETLY DETERMINED HE WOULD GRANT RICHARD M. NIXON AN EARLY PARDON, PARTLY TO KEEP WATERGATE FROM HANGING OVER HIS POLITICAL FUTURE, HIS AIDES SAID.

FORD'S BOMBSHELL ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PARDON, MADE ON A QUIET SUNDAY MORNING LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER NIXON RESIGNED, STIRRED CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SUSPICIONS. HIS POPULARITY RATING IN THE POLLS FELL 18 PER CENT OVERNIGHT.

TODAY, FORD SAYS HE IS CONVINCED IT WAS "ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I MADE," AND GLAD SOME OF THE PRESS NOW AGREES.

AT FIRST, FORD'S CAUTIOUS MOVES LED MANY TO SUSPECT HE WAS MERELY A CARETAKER PRESIDENT. HIS STRENUOUS CAMPAIGNING FOR GOP CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES LAST FALL PROVED LITTLE HELP AGAINST THE WATERGATE BACKLASH.

HIS WIFE UNDERWENT BREAST CANCER SURGERY, AND FORD TOOK IT HARD. AIDES SAY THE FAMILY CRISIS WAS FORD'S "WORST TIME" IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

FROM THE BEGINNING, TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS HAVE DOMINATED THE FORD PRESIDENCY -- THE TROUBLED ECONOMY AND GROWING ENERGY SHORTAGES. "WE ARE JUST TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF POTENTIAL DISASTER IF WE DON'T MOVE NOW FOR A SOLUTION, RIGHT AWAY, AND CERTAINLY A SOLUTION OVER THE NEXT DECADE," FORD HAS SAID.

HE FINDS ENERGY "THE MOST FRUSTRATING PROBLEM" OF ALL. AFTER A YEAR, HE CLEARLY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RALLY THE PUBLIC BEHIND HIS PLANS. HE BLAMES THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS FOR THE STALEMATE, BUT CONGRESS WON'T BUY HIS SOLUTION OF RAISING PRICES TO DISCOURAGE OIL CONSUMPTION AND CONSERVE SUPPLIES.

THE PRESIDENT CLAIMS SOME SUCCESS, HOWEVER, IN TURNING THE RECESSION AROUND AND CRIPPING AWAY AT INFLATION, EVEN THOUGH UNEMPLOYMENT CLIMBED TO THE 9 PER CENT LEVEL. FORD BELIEVES THE RECESSION IS "BOTTOMED OUT" AND THAT ECONOMIC RECOVERY LIES AHEAD.

MORE

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533FORD 7-27

1ST ADD FORD WASHINGTON (HFR 8-3 RLS) X X X AHEAD.

IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FORD BEGAN WITH "ME TOO" APPROVAL OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S EVERY INITIATIVE, BUT HE HAS GRADUALLY MOVED TO TAKE COMMAND AFTER CONFIDENCE-BUILDING TRAVELS TO VLADIVOSTOK, ASIA AND EUROPE.

AFTER AN ORDERLY U.S. EVACUATION FROM VIETNAM, FORD WON ALMOST UNIVERSAL PUBLIC ACCLAIM FOR HIS STEADY, DECISIVE ACTION TO GAIN THE RELEASE OF THE MAYAGUEZ AND HER CREW. KISSINGER SAYS HE IS IMPRESSED WITH FORD'S GRASP OF FOREIGN ISSUES AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

IN CIVIL RIGHTS, FORD SEEMS TO FIT THE CLICHE VIEW OF REPUBLICANS AS DEFENDERS OF THE STATUS QUO MORE THAN HE FOLLOWS THE EXAMPLE SET BY HIS FAVORITE PRESIDENT, HARRY S. TRUMAN. FORD DENIES HE IS INSENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF MINORITIES AND THE POOR, BUT HIS CRITICS SAY HE HAS DONE LITTLE BEYOND EXPANDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE.

THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE CAN GOVERN BY VETO, A DEVICE HE HAS USED FREELY AND SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST THE DISORGANIZED DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN CONGRESS. WHITE HOUSE WIS SAYS HIS ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY OF MAXIMUM FREE ENTERPRISE IN THE MARKETPLACE PUTS HIM "TO THE RIGHT OF ADAM SMITH."

FOR RELAXATION, FORD ENJOYS A ROUND OF GOLF WITH FRIENDS FROM HIS BUSINESS AT THE EXCLUSIVE BURNING TREE COUNTRY CLUB IN SUBURBAN MARYLAND. A SHELTERED POOL WAS BUILT ON THE WHITE HOUSE SOUTH LAWN WITH PRIVATE DONATIONS SO FORD COULD RESUME TAKING HIS CUSTOM OF SWIMMING TWICE A DAY TO KEEP IN SHAPE.

THE PRESIDENT, 6 FEET 1 AND WEIGHING 195 TO 200 POUNDS, WALKS WITH THE EASY GRACE OF AN ATHLETE. AT 62, HIS HEALTH IS EXCELLENT, EXCEPT FOR A TRICK KNEE THAT CAUSES HIM TO STUMBLE OCCASIONALLY. HE HAS UNDERGONE TWO KNEE OPERATIONS AS A RESULT OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL INJURIES.

ON THE PERSONAL SIDE, HE IS NOT A GIFTED ORATOR, AND HIS JOKES IN PUBLIC SPEECHES TEND TO FALL FLAT. HE HAS THE COMFORTABLE LOOK OF A PIPE SMOKER, AND HE USUALLY LAUGHS WHEN HE IS NERVOUS.

HE WEARS GLASSES FOR READING. HIS WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN, DR. WILLIAM LUKASH, HAD HIM FITTED FOR CONTACT LENSES, BUT FORD COULD NOT GET USED TO THEM. HE LIKES MARTINIS WITH AN OLIVE, AND COTTAGE CHEESE SPLASHED WITH A-1 SAUCE.

WHEN THE PRESIDENT WALKS INTO A ROOM, THE MARINE BAND IS MORE LIKELY TO SKIP THE TRADITIONAL "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" AND PLAY INSTEAD "HAIL TO THE VICTORS," THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN FIGHT SONG.

HE WORKS COMFORTABLY WITH HIS TOP STAFF. HE BELIEVES HIS WIDE DAILY CONTACTS OUTSIDE THE OVAL OFFICE WILL PREVENT ISOLATION BY A NIXON-STYLE PALACE GUARD OF CLOSE ADVISERS.

HE IS CLOSER TO HIS WIFE AND FAMILY IN THE WHITE HOUSE THAN HIS YEARS IN CONGRESS, WHEN POLITICAL DEMANDS FREQUENTLY KEPT HIM AWAY FROM HOME. THE PRESIDENT HAS CURTAILED COVERAGE OF WHITE HOUSE SOCIAL EVENTS, BUT REPORTERS ALLOWED TO VIEW AFTER-DINNER ENTERTAINMENT SAY FORD MATCHES LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S ENTHUSIASM FOR DANCING.

THE PRESIDENT'S RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS CORPS ARE GOOD. HE SEEMS TO ENJOY NEWS CONFERENCES, WHICH HE HOLDS NEARLY TWICE A MONTH, AND HAS GIVEN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS TO PRESS AND TELEVISION CORRESPONDENTS.

FORD DISPLAYS AN INNER CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY ABOUT HIS ABILITIES, SHRUGS OFF LINGERING QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS INTELLECT AND REGARDS HIMSELF AS A CONSERVATIVE TO FIT THE TIMES.

HE OFFERS NO GRAND VISION OF THE FUTURE, NO DRAMATIC INITIATIVES. HE WANTS TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY, MAKE THE NATION SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ENERGY AND BUILD ON HIS PREDECESSOR'S WORK TOWARD LASTING PEACE.

IF FORD HAS A VISION, IT MIGHT BE FOUND IN HIS RECENT PRE-CAMPAIGN SPEECHES CALLING FOR A NEW AMERICAN ERA OF INDIVIDUAL SELF-RELIANCE.

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 37-27 12:07 PED

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SOSPOLITICS 7-27

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

WITH FORD

FORD IN '76:

WATCH THE ECONOMY

BY ARNOLD SHWISLAK

UPI POLITICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOW PRESIDENT FORD AHEAD OF ALL POTENTIAL ELECTION RIVALS IN 1976. BUT THOSE AREN'T THE NUMBERS THE POLITICIANS ARE WATCHING MOST CLOSELY THESE DAYS.

IT IS THE ECONOMIC INDICATORS -- THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, UNEMPLOYMENT, PERSONAL INCOME -- THAT ARE HOLDING THE ATTENTION OF THOSE WHO WILL PLAN AND DIRECT THE BICENTENNIAL PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS.

IF THE ECONOMY IS IN GOOD SHAPE OR CLEARLY IMPROVING THIS FALL AND NEXT SPRING, SO WILL BE FORD'S ELECTION CHANCES. IF RECESSION AND INFLATION CONTINUE OR GET WORSE, IT WILL BE BAD NEWS FOR THE PRESIDENT AND GOOD NEWS FOR HIS PROSPECTIVE CHALLENGERS IN EITHER PARTY.

UNTIL THEN, PRE-CAMPAIGN POLITICKING WILL BE A BATTLE OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS: FORD AND HIS SUPPORTERS WAVING SHEAFS OF FIGURES AS EVIDENCE THE WORST IS OVER; THE OPPOSITION COUNTERING WITH "IT AIN'T SO" CHARTS SHOWING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND ESCALATING ENERGY PRICES.

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS HAVE RISEN TO THE TOP OF THE POLITICAL HEAP NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY ARE CLASSIC "BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUES AFFECTING EVERYONE, BUT BECAUSE FORD HAS BEEN ABLE TO NEUTRALIZE OR BLUNT OTHERS THAT WERE POTENTIALLY DAMAGING.

THE MOST OBVIOUS EXAMPLE IS WATERGATE. WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE A YEAR AGO, FORD'S MOST PRESSING POLITICAL TASK WAS TO KEEP THE TAINI OF HIS PREDECESSOR'S SCANDALS FROM CRIPPLING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

FORD TOOK AN ENORMOUS RISK TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BY PARDONING RICHARD NIXON AT THE OUTSET. IT SURELY WILL COST HIM SOME VOTER SUPPORT EVEN IN NOVEMBER, 1976, BUT THE INITIAL FUROR HAS DIED DOWN, AND FORD'S NEW, OPEN Demeanor HAS HELPED RESTORE SOME MEASURE OF PUBLIC TRUST IN THE MAN AND THE OFFICE.

ANOTHER BIG TASK WAS TO ESTABLISH HIS LEADERSHIP. THE MAYAGUEZ SEIZURE ENABLED FORD TO SHOW AMERICANS AND THE REST OF THE WORLD HE WAS DECISIVE IN A CRISIS. HE DISPLAYED STABILITY BY ACCEPTING DEFEAT IN INDOCHINA AND PURSUING DETENTE WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS MAY HAVE SOLVED SOME OF FORD'S LEADERSHIP IDENTITY PROBLEMS. UNTIL THE DEMOCRATS GOT INTO THE ACT, FORD MADE A POOR IMPRESSION WITH HIS ENERGY EFFORTS AND THE ABORTIVE WIN CAMPAIGN AGAINST INFLATION. BUT BY ADVANCING ECONOMIC RECOVERY BILLS THEY COULD NOT PASS OVER FORD'S VETOES AND BY FALLING INTO DISARRAY OVER AN ENERGY PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN, THE DEMOCRATS MADE THE PRESIDENT LOOK STRONG AND SURE-FOOTED BY COMPARISON.

ALL THIS DOES NOT MEAN FORD'S ONLY WORRY FOR 1976 IS THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY. HE HAS A REAL PROBLEM RIGHT IN HIS ONLY PARTY.

A STRONG-WILLED GROUP OF GOP CONSERVATIVES BELIEVES NIXON LET THEM DOWN, AND THEY DO NOT INTEND TO LET FORD LEAD THEM DOWN ANOTHER PRIMROSE PATH. THEY ARE UNHAPPY WITH FORD'S CHOICE OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER, THEIR OLD NEMESIS, AS VICE PRESIDENT, HIS DECISION TO ACCEPT HEAVY DEFICIT SPENDING AS AN ANTI-INFLATION WEAPON AND -- PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTH -- HIS SUPPORT FOR EXTENDING THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

THE CONSERVATIVES ARE THREATENING TO CHALLENGE FORD FOR THE GOP NOMINATION OR TO STRIKE OUT ON A THIRD PARTY PRESIDENTIAL EFFORT BEHIND RONALD REAGAN'S BANNER.

THE FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR HAS ALL BUT TORPEDOED THEIR IDEA OF LEADING A CONSERVATIVE THIRD PARTY, AND HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO CHALLENGE FORD WITH ANYTHING BUT RHETORIC. STILL, AS FORD'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE ENDS, REAGAN HAS A FLEDGLING CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATION WORKING AND THE MORE MILITANT GOP CONSERVATIVES ARE DEEP INTO THE NECESSARY LEGAL SPADEWORK FOR MOUNTING A SERIOUS THIRD PARTY CAMPAIGN.

THE CONSERVATIVES' UNREST WORRIES FORD AND HIS STRATEGISTS, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE AN INTERNAL SPLIT WOULD HAVE ON THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF A PARTY WHOSE SURVEYS SHOW IT COMMANDS THE ALLEGIANCE OF ONLY 18 PER CENT OF THE ELECTORATE.

A GALLUP POLL IN JULY INDICATED FORD HAD LITTLE REASON TO FEAR REAGAN -- THAT REPUBLICANS PREFERRED HIM OVER THE CALIFORNIAN BY 61 TO 33 PER CENT. BUT ROCKEFELLER IS ANOTHER MATTER.

SO INTENSE IS GOP RIGHTWING OPPOSITION TO ROCKEFELLER AS THE LIBERAL INCARNATE THAT FORD, WHILE WARMLY PRAISING HIM, HAS MADE CLEAR THAT ROCKEFELLER MUST GO OUT AND WIN RANK-AND-FILE SUPPORT FOR HIMSELF. FORD'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER WENT FURTHER AND SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS "KEEPING A VERY OPEN MIND" ABOUT HIS 1976 RUNNING MATE.

THE DEMOCRATS, MEANWHILE, ARE GIVING FORD ALL THE TIME HE NEEDS TO GET HIS POLITICAL DUCKS IN A ROW. AS OF MID-JULY, NO FEWER THAN SIX DEMOCRATS HAD ANNOUNCED THEIR CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, AND AS MANY AS SIX OTHERS WERE RATED AS POSSIBILITIES. NO ONE STANDS OUT IN THAT BIG A CROWD, AND NO DEMOCRAT SEEMS LIKELY TO EMERGE TO CHALLENGE FORD UNTIL WELL INTO THE SPRING PRIMARIES.

ADV FOR AHS SUN AUG 6 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 07-27 10:42 PED

555CONGRESS 7-27

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD  
FORD AND CONGRESS:  
MR. NICE GUY IS ALSO TOUGH  
BY STEVE GERSTEL

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SPEAKING AS PRESIDENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHERE HE HAD SERVED A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, GERALD R. FORD PROMISED CONGRESS "COMMUNICATION, CONCILIATION, COMPROMISE AND COOPERATION."

NO WORDS COULD HAVE BEEN MORE WELCOME. FOR FIVE AND A HALF TORTURED YEARS, CONGRESS HAD BEEN IGNORED, FRUSTRATED AND REJECTED BY RICHARD M. NIXON AND HIS ADMINISTRATION.

ADDRESSING A JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE THREE DAYS AFTER HE SUCCEEDED NIXON, FORD HELD OUT THE PROSPECT OF A NEW, WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS. "I DO NOT WANT A HONEYMOON WITH YOU," FORD TOLD HIS OLD COMRADES. "I WANT A GOOD MARRIAGE."

A YEAR LATER, REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ON CAPITOL HILL ARE INCLINED TO AGREE THAT FORD HAS KEPT HIS PLEDGE. BUT THEY ALSO HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE GENIAL, SOMETIMES EASILY PLIABLE MAN THEY KNEW AS HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER HAD BECOME TOUGH, POLITICAL AND SURPRISINGLY STRONG AS PRESIDENT.

BACK IN JANUARY, IT WAS CONGRESS THAT LOOKED TOUGH. THE NEWLY ELECTED 94TH WAS SO HEAVY WITH DEMOCRATS IT PROMISED TO BE "VEIO-PROOF." HALLUCINATED BY THEIR NUMBERS, THE DEMOCRATS WERE READY TO JAM THEIR PROPOSALS DOWN FORD'S THROAT AND REJECT HIS.

BUT BY MID-YEAR, FORD HAD MORE THAN HELD HIS OWN, FORCING CONGRESS TO MAKE ITS PROGRAMS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM. OF THE NINE BILLS HE HAD VETOED, CONGRESS TRIED AND FAILED TO PASS FOUR OVER HIS OBJECTIONS AND MADE NO ATTEMPT TO SALVAGE THE OTHERS.

IN SEVERAL CASES, SUCH AS THE PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED, CONGRESS CAME BACK WITH A BILL FORD ACCEPTED.

ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT CAN CLAIM PART OF THE CREDIT BY MAINTAINING UNUSUALLY TIGHT DISCIPLINE WITHIN REPUBLICAN RANKS ON IMPORTANT VOTES, THE DEMOCRATS HAVE DOUBTLESS MADE HIS JOB EASIER.

LACKING TOUGH LEADERSHIP AND PARTY DISCIPLINE IN EITHER THE HOUSE OR SENATE, THE DEMOCRATS FREQUENTLY HAVE BEEN AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER, GIVING FORD THE NECESSARY EDGE TO SUSTAIN HIS VEToes.

A PRIME EXAMPLE IS ENERGY POLICY. FOR SIX MONTHS, THE FRAGMENTED DEMOCRATS HAVE TRIED IN VAIN TO PUT TOGETHER AN ALTERNATIVE TO FORD'S PROPOSALS. WHEN THEY DO PASS AN ENERGY BILL, THE MARGIN IS SO SMALL THEY SEE NO POINT IN TRYING TO OVERRIDE A FORD VETO.

FORD HAS FALLEN INTO THE USUAL PRESIDENTIAL TRADITION OF ACCUSING THE OPPOSITION-LED CONGRESS OF OBSTRUCTION, INACTION AND DELAY WHEN THINGS DON'T GO HIS WAY. BUT HE HAS MANAGED TO DO IT WITHOUT STIRRING UP PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS, EVEN AMONG HIS CRITICS.

FOR THEIR PART, SOME LEGISLATORS GRUMBLE ABOUT THE PRESUMPTION OF AN "UNELECTED" REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT TRYING TO DICTATE TO A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS WHICH WON ITS MANDATE AT THE POLLS.

MOST OF IT IS DISMISSED AS HARMLESS POLITICAL SPARRING.

"I SOMETIMES WISH HE WASN'T SUCH A NICE GUY," ONE SENATE DEMOCRAT SAID. "IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO CRITICIZE HIM."

ASSISTANT SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER ROBERT C. BYRD SAYS FORD CREATED A BRIEF "ADVERSE FEELING" WHEN HE PARDONED NIXON, AND AGAIN WHEN HE COMMITTED TROOPS TO THE MAYAGUEZ RESCUE WITHOUT CONSULTING CONGRESS.

BUT, HE ADDS, "ON THE WHOLE, THE RELATIONSHIP IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. THE PICTURE NOW IS A GREAT IMPROVEMENT."

BYRD CREDITS FORD'S ABILITY TO "DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ISSUES AND PERSONALITIES" AND TO REALIZE THE LIMITATIONS OF HIS OFFICE WHEN DEALING WITH CONGRESS.

"WE HAVE OUR DIFFERENCES," BYRD SAID. "EVEN THOUGH WE DISAGREE ON MANY THINGS, WE STILL RESPECT EACH OTHER."

SAID HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER JOHN J. RHODES: "TO MAKE THE POINT THAT GERALD R. FORD KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS LIKE SAYING THAT BOB HOPE CAN TELL JOKES, JACK NICKLAUS CAN PLAY GOLF OR RUDOLF NUREYEV CAN DANCE."

RHODES SAID FORD'S LONG SERVICE IN CONGRESS HAS GIVEN HIM "A TREMENDOUS RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL ON CAPITOL HILL. MOST MEMBERS KNOW HIM PERSONALLY...THIS MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.

"HE IS A HIGHLY CAPABLE MAN WHO HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH OTHER CAPABLE MEN AND WOMEN. THAT IS A TOUGH COMBINATION TO BEAT."

IN THAT FIRST SPEECH, FORD HAD WARNED CONGRESS HE MEANT BUSINESS. "TONIGHT, OBVIOUSLY, IS NO TIME TO THREATEN YOU WITH VEToes, BUT I DO HAVE THE LAST RECOURSE. AND I AM A VETERAN OF MANY A VETO FIGHT RIGHT HERE IN THIS GREAT CHAMBER."

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

FORD FOREIGN POLICY:

KISSINGER DELIGHTED

BY RICHARD H. GROWALD

UPI SENIOR EDITOR

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S GRATITUDE AND FIRM SUPPORT, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IS CONCENTRATING HIS PRODIGIOUS ENERGIES ON ACHIEVING A BREAKTHROUGH SOVIET-AMERICAN NUCLEAR ARMS AGREEMENT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

FORD HAS GIVEN KISSINGER A VIRTUALLY FREE HAND TO PURSUE THE SAME GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY GOALS HE BEGAN MORE THAN SIX YEARS AGO UNDER RICHARD M. NIXON. FOREMOST AMONG THOSE GOALS, IN KISSINGER'S MIND, IS ARMS CONTROL.

IN TURN, KISSINGER IS KNOWN TO RESPECT THE READY GRASP OF FOREIGN ISSUES THAT FORD HAS DISPLAYED DURING HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE.

AT ONE POINT, KISSINGER REPORTED WITH NO LITTLE SURPRISE THAT FORD WAS NO GUM CHEWER IN FOREIGN POLICY. HE EXPRESSED GENUINE DELIGHT WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN ISSUES AND CONCERN WITH DETAILS, WHICH KISSINGER SAID WAS EVEN GREATER THAN NIXON'S.

THOUGH TOTALLY DIFFERENT IN PERSONALITY AND STYLE, THE TWO MEN SEEM TO HAVE BUILT A QUICK, EASY WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT SERVES EACH WELL.

AND DESPITE UNRELENTING CRITICISM FROM SUCH DETRACTORS AS SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., KISSINGER SHOWS NO SIGNS OF INTENDING TO QUIT BEFORE THE END OF FORD'S CURRENT TERM. AND FORD SHOWS NO SIGNS OF WANTING HIM TO LEAVE.

AS FORD AND KISSINGER ENTER THEIR SECOND YEAR OF COLLABORATION, KISSINGER THE HARVARD SCHOLAR ALSO IS A REALIST ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF ENGINEERING A PERMANENT WORLD PEACE.

KISSINGER BELIEVES THE MOST HE CAN ACCOMPLISH IS TO KEEP THINGS GOING SMOOTHLY UNTIL HE RESIGNS, AND PERHAPS SO ARRANGE AFFAIRS THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WILL HAVE AS MUCH AS TWO YEARS' GRACE BEFORE THE KISSINGER MAGIC RUNS OUT.

WHEN FORD TOOK OFFICE AND LIFTED THE PALL OF WATERGATE THAT HAD PARALYZED HIS FOREIGN INITIATIVES, KISSINGER RETURNED TO WORK WITH GUSTO. THE FIRST FRUITS CAME TWO MONTHS LATER IN VLADIVOSTOCK, WHERE FORD AND SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LEONID I. BREZHNEV SEALED AGREEMENT TO HALT THE COSTLY PLUNGE INTO ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS.

FORD AND BREZHNEV ALSO AGREED TO WORK ON A TREATY THAT WOULD LIMIT EACH COUNTRY'S NUMBER OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. TRANSLATING THAT DESIRE INTO REALITY HAS BEEN FORD'S AND KISSINGER'S THEME THIS YEAR.

THE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE SIGNED AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS FALL DURING BREZHNEV'S PLANNED VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

ARMS CONTROL HAS DOMINATED EVERY KISSINGER CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS THIS YEAR. ALL ELSE, BY CONTRAST, IS A SIDE SHOW.

VIETNAM IS PAST. THE MAN WHO WON A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR HIS ROLE IN EXTRICATING THE UNITED STATES FROM WAR CURTLY DISMISSED CRITICS WHO SAID HE HAD FAILED WHEN INDOCHINA FELL TO THE COMMUNISTS. THE PUBLIC ONLY WANTED TO GET OUT OF VIETNAM, HE SAID, NOT SAVE IT.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, KISSINGER'S BASIC CONCERN IN THE CONTINUING ISRAELI-ARAB CONFRONTATION IS TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS, WHICH ARE DOMINATED BY THE OIL THAT FEEDS AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND U.S. ALLIES IN EUROPE.

THERE IS NO QUESTION THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL IS BASED ALSO ON PUBLIC SENTIMENT, ILLUSTRATED BY THE LETTER OF SUPPORT WHICH 76 SENATORS SENT FORD THIS SPRING. BUT KISSINGER BELIEVES ISRAEL'S BEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE LIES IN ACCOMMODATING ITSELF TO AMERICAN INTERESTS, AND A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT IS VITAL TO THOSE INTERESTS.

KISSINGER IS ARRANGING A FORD VISIT TO PEKING LATER THIS YEAR. THE AIM IS NOT TO REVIVE THE SPECTER OF AMERICA AS A POWER ON THE ASIAN MAINLAND BUT TO KEEP ALIVE KISSINGER'S POLICY OF PLAYING THE TWO COMMUNIST GIANTS, RUSSIA AND CHINA, AGAINST EACH OTHER.

KISSINGER THE PRAGMATIST DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS STRATEGY WILL WORK FOREVER, BUT HE IS SEIZING AN OPPORTUNITY THAT EXISTS WHILE THE AGING MAO TSE-TUNG AND CHOU EN-LAI ARE STILL ALIVE. HE BELIEVES THEIR SUCCESSORS WILL BE SORELY TEMPTED TO MAKE A BID TO CLOSE THE GAP WITH MOSCOW.

THUS FORD AND KISSINGER MAY BE MOVING AGAINST A DEADLINE IN CHINA. ANOTHER DEADLINE CONCERNS BREZHNEV'S LONGEVITY IN OFFICE.

BY THE TIME OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY, BREZHNEV WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO EXHIBIT THE FRUITS OF HIS POLICY OF DETENTE WITH AMERICA. THE CHOICEST EXAMPLE WOULD BE AN OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS LIMITATION AGREEMENT.

IN THE PAST YEAR, KISSINGER ALSO HAS WORKED HIS USUAL SEVEN-DAY WEEKS TRYING TO RALLY THE WEST ON JOINT ACTION TO SOLVE ENERGY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WITH FORD'S APPARENT BLESSING, HE HAS BEGUN

(PICTURE)

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

THE FIRST FAMILY:

AT HOME IN THE WHITE HOUSE

BY HELEN THOMAS

UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FROM FATHER'S DIPS IN THE NEW OUTDOOR POOL TO SUSAN'S SENIOR PROM IN THE EAST ROOM, THE FORDS HAVE MADE THEMSELVES AT HOME IN THE WHITE HOUSE LIKE FEW OTHER PRESIDENTIAL FAMILIES.

THE TONE OF WARMTH AND INFORMALITY IS MAINTAINED BY BETTY FORD, WHO CONFESSES SHE WAS SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT BECOMING FIRST LADY A YEAR AGO BUT SEEMS TO HAVE ACCEPTED HER ROLE WITH POISE AND CONFIDENCE.

THERE IS AN AIR OF COMFORTABLE LIVING IN THE BRIGHTLY DECORATED FAMILY QUARTERS ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AND THE MAIDS AND BUTLERS FOLLOWING MRS. FORD'S INSTRUCTIONS NO LONGER SEEM TO WALK AROUND ON TIPTOE.

WHEN SHE DISCUSSES FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS WITH HER STAFF, MRS. FORD USUALLY DOES IT OVER A BITE OF LUNCH RATHER THAN THE TELEPHONE.

SHE IS REFRESHINGLY HONEST, AND THE MOST CANDID FIRST LADY IN RECENT MEMORY. SHE HAS TAKEN A STRONG STAND IN FAVOR OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND ABORTION, AND ALLOWS THAT SOME OF HER SONS MIGHT HAVE TRIED MARIJUANA.

SHE WILL TAKE A DRINK OR SMOKE A CIGARETTE IN PUBLIC, UNLIKE MOST OF HER PREDECESSORS.

MRS. FORD SHOULDERED THE BURDEN OF REARING THEIR FOUR CHILDREN DURING THE 25 YEARS HER HUSBAND WAS A CAMPAIGNING CONGRESSMAN. HE HAD PROMISED TO QUIT POLITICS, BUT SHE FORGAVE HIM THAT PLEDGE THE MOMENT HE BECAME PRESIDENT.

NOW, ESPECIALLY AFTER HER SURGERY FOR BREAST CANCER IN SEPTEMBER, MRS. FORD SAYS SHE TAKES LIFE "ONE DAY AT A TIME." BUT SHE SPEAKS ENTHUSIASTICALLY OF CAMPAIGNING IN 1976, SEEKING TO DISPEL ANY SUGGESTIONS HER HUSBAND MIGHT NOT SEEK ELECTION BECAUSE OF HER HEALTH.

THE FORDS' MOVE INTO THE WHITE HOUSE FROM THEIR UNPRETENTIOUS BRICK HOME IN SUBURBAN ALEXANDRIA, VA., HAS HAD LITTLE NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON THEIR FREEDOM TO ENJOY THEIR FORMER FAMILY PURSUITS.

THEY STILL GATHER AT VAIL, COLO., FOR A CHRISTMAS SKIING HOLIDAY. THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE REGULARLY ATTEND SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES, NOW ACROSS LAFAYETTE PARK AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. AND WITH THE ADDITION OF A POOL BEHIND HIS WEST WING OFFICES, BUILT WITH PRIVATE DONATIONS, FORD ONCE AGAIN TAKE HIS CUSTOMARY TWICE-DAILY SWIMS.

THE FORDS' BLONDE, BLUE-EYED DAUGHTER SUSAN, 18, IS A FAMILIAR SIGHT AROUND THE WHITE HOUSE, LOUGING IN BLUE JEANS, ENTERTAINING FRIENDS AT A CASUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY OR FORMAL GRADUATION CLASS DANCE. PRACTICING HER CAMERA WORK ALONGSIDE PRESS CORPS PHOTOGRAPHERS.

AFTER HER SUMMER JOB AS AN INTERN PHOTOGRAPHER WITH THE TOPEKA, KAN., DAILY CAPITAL AND STATE JOURNAL, SUSAN WILL ENTER MOUNT VERNON JUNIOR COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON AS A FRESHMAN. SHE HAS FREQUENT DATES, BUT NO CURRENT STEADY, AND LOVES TO SKI AND SWIM WITH TYPICAL FORD VIGOR.

THE MOST POLITICALLY MINDED MEMBER OF THE FAMILY BESIDES THE PRESIDENT IS SON JACK, 23, WHO WAS GRADUATED IN JUNE FROM UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY AS A FORESTRY MAJOR. HE IS SPENDING THE SUMMER AT THE WHITE HOUSE OBSERVING HIS FATHER'S WORK AND PREPARING FOR A ROLE IN THE 1976 GOP ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

SON STEVE, 19, TOOK OFF THE PAST YEAR TO WORK AS A RANCH HAND IN MONTANA BEFORE HE ENTERS COLLEGE, AND IS SPENDING THE SUMMER STUDYING GRIZZLY BEARS AND RODEO RIDING IN THE WEST. PASSERSBY OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE FENCE USUALLY CAN TELL WHEN STEVE IS HOME, BECAUSE HE PARKS HIS BRIGHT YELLOW JEEP IN THE WHITE HOUSE DRIVEWAY.

THE ELDEST SON, MIKE, 25, AND HIS WIFE GAYLE, LIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS, WHERE MIKE IS WORKING ON A MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY AT GORDON-CONWELL SEMINARY IN SOUTH HAMILTON.

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 87-28 10:57 PLO



S03HUMOR 7-28

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

BY RICHARD H. GROWALD  
UPI SENIOR EDITOR

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD STEPPED BACK FROM THE CAMERAS AND MICROPHONES, TUCKED THE NOTES OF HIS SPEECH INTO A JACKET POCKET AND TURNED TO HIS SON JACK, 23.

"PRETTY GOOD SPEECH," JACK SAID. "NOT THAT I AGREE WITH IT, OF COURSE."

FORD LAUGHED AND REPLIED, "YOU WOULD NEVER AGREE." JACK, WHO IS MORE LIBERAL THAN HIS FATHER ON SEVERAL ISSUES, GRINNED APPRECIATELY.

HUMOR HAS RETURNED TO THE WHITE HOUSE. PERHAPS NOT SINCE JOHN F. KENNEDY'S DAYS HAS THE WHITE HOUSE SO FREQUENTLY ECHOED WITH CHUCKLING AND LAUGHTER.

THE HUMOR OF THE FORD PRESIDENCY USUALLY IS GENTLE AND SELF-DEPRECATING, AN EASYGOING JOSHING QUITE UNLIKE THE KNEE-SLAPPING GUFFAWS OF LYNDON B. JOHNSON OR RICHARD M. NIXON'S STRAINED, SOMEWHAT AWKWARD ATTEMPTS AT PUBLIC HUMOR.

TYPICALLY, FORD HIMSELF MADE THE FIRST JOKE ABOUT THE TRICK KNEE THAT CAUSED HIM TO SLIP AND STUMBLE DOWN THE STEPS OF THE RAMP ON HIS ARRIVAL IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, IN JUNE. "WE OUGHT TO GET AN ESCALATOR SO I WON'T HAVE ALL THESE PROBLEMS," HE LATER TOLD AIDES WITH A GRIN.

WHEN THE WASHINGTON STAR'S PAT OLIPHANT USED THE INCIDENT AS THE BASIS FOR A CARTOON SUGGESTING IN JEST THE PRESIDENT'S INABILITY TO DESCEND AN AIRPLANE RAMP AND CHEW GUM AT THE SAME TIME, FORD REQUESTED THE ORIGINAL CARTOON FOR HIS COLLECTION.

NOT WIDELY KNOWN IS THE PRESIDENT'S DELIGHT IN POKER-FACED TEASING. SEATED NEXT TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANATOLY DOBRYNIN TO WATCH THE TELEVISED LAUNCHING OF THE SOYUZ SPACECRAFT IN JUNE, FORD TURNED AND SAID, "IF WE DON'T SEE A BIG FLASH, I SUPPOSE THE LAUNCHING MUST BE SUCCESSFUL."

IT TOOK THE DOBRYNIN A WHILE TO REALIZE THE PRESIDENT WAS JOKING.

FORD ENJOYS TRADING JOKES AND PUTDOWNS WITH DAVID HUME KENNERLY, THE YOUNG WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER WHO OFTEN NEEDLES THE PRESIDENT TO TRY TO RELAX HIM DURING TIMES OF STRESS.

KENNERLY RECENTLY FOUND FORD CONCENTRATING ON A PILE OF DOCUMENTS AND JOSHED HIM ABOUT JACK FORD'S BUDDING INTEREST IN POLITICS.

"JACK IS GETTING ON IN POLITICS, MR. PRESIDENT, GETTING AFTER YOUR JOB," KENNERLY SAID.

WITHOUT LOOKING UP, FORD SHOT BACK: "HE CAN HAVE THE BLASTED JOB."

THOSE WHO WORK WITH THE PRESIDENT HAVE COME TO SHARE HIS FONDNESS FOR A LIGHT MOMENT. SECRET SERVICE AGENTS QUIETLY FEED THE PRESIDENT INFORMATION ABOUT KENNERLY'S LATEST FEMALE ESCORT, AND CHIEF OF STAFF DONALD RUMSFELD USED HUMOR TO BREAK THE TENSION IN THE WHITE HOUSE MAP ROOM DURING THE MAYAGUEZ CRISIS.

FORD WAS THE FIRST TO GRIN WHEN RUMSFELD RELAYED AN AIR FORCE GENERAL'S REPORT OF AIR ACTIVITY DURING THE RESCUE MISSION AND ADDED: "NAVY FIGHTER PILOTS, OF COURSE, COULD HAVE DONE IT BETTER."

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 07-28 11:06 PED

A317 HFR 8-3

A A

S03HEALTH 7-28

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- GERALD R. FORD IS ONE OF THE HEALTHIEST PRESIDENTS IN RECENT TIMES.

ON HIS 62ND BIRTHDAY JULY 14, FORD WAS PRONOUNCED "PHYSICALLY FIT" AFTER DR. WILLIAM LUKASH, THE WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN, GAVE HIM A COMPLETE SEMIANNUAL CHECKUP. ALL TESTS, INCLUDING AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM, WERE NORMAL.

FORD, WHO WALKS WITH THE NATURAL GRACE OF AN ATHLETE, SHOWS LITTLE EVIDENCE AFTER ONE YEAR OF THE AGING THAT THE STRAINS OF THE OFFICE SEEM TO ACCELERATE IN OTHER PRESIDENTS.

FORD'S ONLY PHYSICAL COMPLAINT IS A TRICK KNEE WHICH SOMETIMES CAUSES HIM TO STUMBLE WHEN HE BECOMES FATIGUED. HE UNDERWENT SURGERY ON BOTH KNEES A FEW YEARS AGO AS A RESULT OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL INJURIES.

THE PRESIDENT IS A PHYSICAL FITNESS ADDICT. HE SWIMS TWICE DAILY WHEN HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS, PLAYS TENNIS WITH A KNEE BANDAGE, DOES SOME WEIGHT-LIFTING EXERCISES AND ENJOYS AN OCCASIONAL 18 HOLES OF WEEKEND GOLF WITH FRIENDS AT THE BURNING TREE COUNTRYCLUB IN SUBURBAN MARYLAND.

LUKASH PUT FORD ON A DIET AS SOON AS HE ENTERED THE WHITE HOUSE, AND HIS WEIGHT RANGES BETWEEN 195 AND 200 POUNDS. LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, RICHARD M. NIXON, FORD CURBS HIS APPETITE AT LUNCH WITH COTTAGE CHEESE, BUT SEASONS IT WITH A-1 SAUCE INSTEAD OF CATSUP.

WHEN HE INDULGES HIMSELF, FORD PREFERS STEAK, WITH BUTTER PECAN ICE CREAM FOR DESSERT. HE ALSO ENJOYS A MARTINI WITH AN OLIVE.

AN INVETERATE PIPE SMOKER, FORD SMOKES EIGHT OR 10 PIPEFULS OF TOBACCO A DAY.

THE PRESIDENT'S WORKDAY USUALLY LASTS NEARLY 12 HOURS. WHEN HE LEAVES THE OVAL OFFICE ABOUT 7:30 P.M. EACH DAY, HE OFTEN TAKES SOME PAPERWORK BACK TO THE FAMILY QUARTERS.

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER

UPI 07-28 11:12 PED



A318 HFR 8-3

A A

S03PRESS 7-28

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
WITH FORD

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- AFTER THE STORMY NIXON ERA, PRESIDENT FORD HAS ESTABLISHED AN AMIABLE, FAIRLY EASYGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS, WHICH GENERALLY CREDITS HIM WITH BEING OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE.

TRUE TO HIS PROMISE, FORD HELD 17 REGULAR NEWS CONFERENCES DURING HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE, MOST OF THEM TELEVISED, AND HAS GRANTED MORE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS TO NEWSPAPER AND BROADCAST CORRESPONDENTS THAN ANY PRESIDENT IN RECENT MEMORY.

HE SEEMS TO ENJOY HIS NEWS CONFERENCE EXCHANGES WITH REPORTERS. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE PRESS SHOULD COVER HIS SOCIAL LIFE, HOWEVER, AND HAS BARRED REPORTERS FROM WHITE HOUSE RECEPTIONS THAT SOMETIMES INCLUDE HUNDREDS OF TALKATIVE GUESTS.

IT HAS NOT BEEN AS EASY FOR FORD'S PRESS SECRETARIES. THE FIRST, J.F. TERHORST, AN OLD FRIEND AND WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF OF THE DETROIT NEWS, RESIGNED AFTER LESS THAN A MONTH ON THE JOB IN DISAGREEMENT WITH FORD'S PARDON FOR FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON.

TERHORST'S SUCCESSOR, FORMER NBC TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT RONALD NESSEN, DECLARED A GOAL OF CLEARING THE AIR OF WATERGATE HOSTILITIES IN THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM.

BUT OVER THE MONTHS, NESSEN CAME UNDER INCREASINGLY TOUGH AND SKEPTICAL QUESTIONING AT WHITE HOUSE NEWS BRIEFINGS. HE FINALLY BLEW UP IN PUBLIC, ACCUSING REPORTERS OF BEING "BLIND AND MISTRUSTFUL."

FORD SAYS NESSEN HAS DONE A "DARN FINE JOB" IN A DIFFICULT JOB. "I DON'T KNOW WHY HIS CREDIBILITY SHOULD BE ATTACKED," FORD HAS SAID. "I THINK IT IS UNFAIR TO SAY THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING AND BEEN OPEN."

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 3 OR THEREAFTER  
UPI 07-28 11:17 PED

A310