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News & Comment

The President's Daily News Summary



Leading The News...

, FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1976

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Deputy Counsel Clears Ford in Fund Probe

Deputy Attorney General Harold Tyler said Friday "there is no reason to assume or surmise that Mr. Ford was involved in at all" in the Watergate Special Prosecutor's Michigan campaign fund investigation.

Tyler, the official who referred the case to the Watergate Special Prosecutor, said he believes the allegations involved the 1972 presidential campaign and not, so far as he knows, President Ford's last congressional campaign.

"If Mr. Ford's name was mentioned, I don't recall it," Tyler told reporters pressing him for comment on a news report that the Justice Department itself put Watergate Prosecutor Charles Ruff onto the case.

"I had no knowledge that the President was involved," Tyler said. "I don't know who was involved." (NBC/CBS)

That seemed to contradict a quote attributed to Tyler in Friday's Washington Post, who quoted him as saying, "To the extent I know about it, this involves President Ford."

The Post story also quoted "other Justice Department sources" as saying the probe involves "serious" and "significant" charges that Ford put Michigan GOP campaign funds to personal or wrongful political use during his 1972 congressional races.

Ruff refused to comment on the case, other than to say the investigation began with a tip to the FBI. (NBC)

After a full week of public scrutiny, there still has been no indication of any impropriety by President Ford, James Polk said. Ruff, he added, might talk to reporters next week to resolve, and perhaps end the investigation. (NBC) --AP, UPI, Networks (10/1/76)

IssuesDole Calls Carter "Weird"

Sen. Robert Dole said Friday President Ford's election chances had improved because the public is questioning Jimmy Carter's "weird performance and judgment."

Dole told a White House news conference after meeting with Ford that Carter's interview in Playboy Magazine, his comments on income tax and his attack on President Lyndon Johnson and "then running to the telephone to apologize to the widow" prompted his view that Carter's behavior has been "rather strange."

"I think what people want now, particularly in foreign polciy, is experience and not an experiment...it just strikes me as rather strange that someone (Carter) can always find fault in a rather harsh way" with others, Dole said. (NBC)

IssuesFORD/DOLE CAMPAIGN

Ron Nessen would not say whether President Ford agrees with Dole's characterization of Carter. (NBC)

Dole commented on his role as the "hatched man" for the campaign. "...the press set me up as a hatchet man before I opened my mouth. And I've been almost scared to say anything because I'm not intimidated by the press, but I want to try to be a nice fellow," Dole said. (ABC)

Herb Kaplow said Dole hopes to be a nice fellow with "a devastating left jab." (ABC)

ABC's 2:00 story, which ran #6, was included in a wrap-up of the Dole campaign to date and included film of Dole meeting with President Ford and reporters.

NBC included this story with Ford's Foreign Minister meeting.

CBS featured this spot with Ford's meeting with the Foreign Ministers.

StrategyFord Meets With Guirigaud, Gromyko

President Ford spent the better part of Friday meeting with Foreign Ministers Andrei Gromyko of the Soviet Union and Louis de Guirigaud of France.

The meeting, which included a discussion of the SALI Agreement, was interrupted by a campaign report from Sen. Dole.

Bob Schieffer said the White House does not discourage coverage of such events since Ford's strategists believe it shows that, while Carter can only talk about foreign policy, incumbent Ford is already dealing with it every day. (CBS)

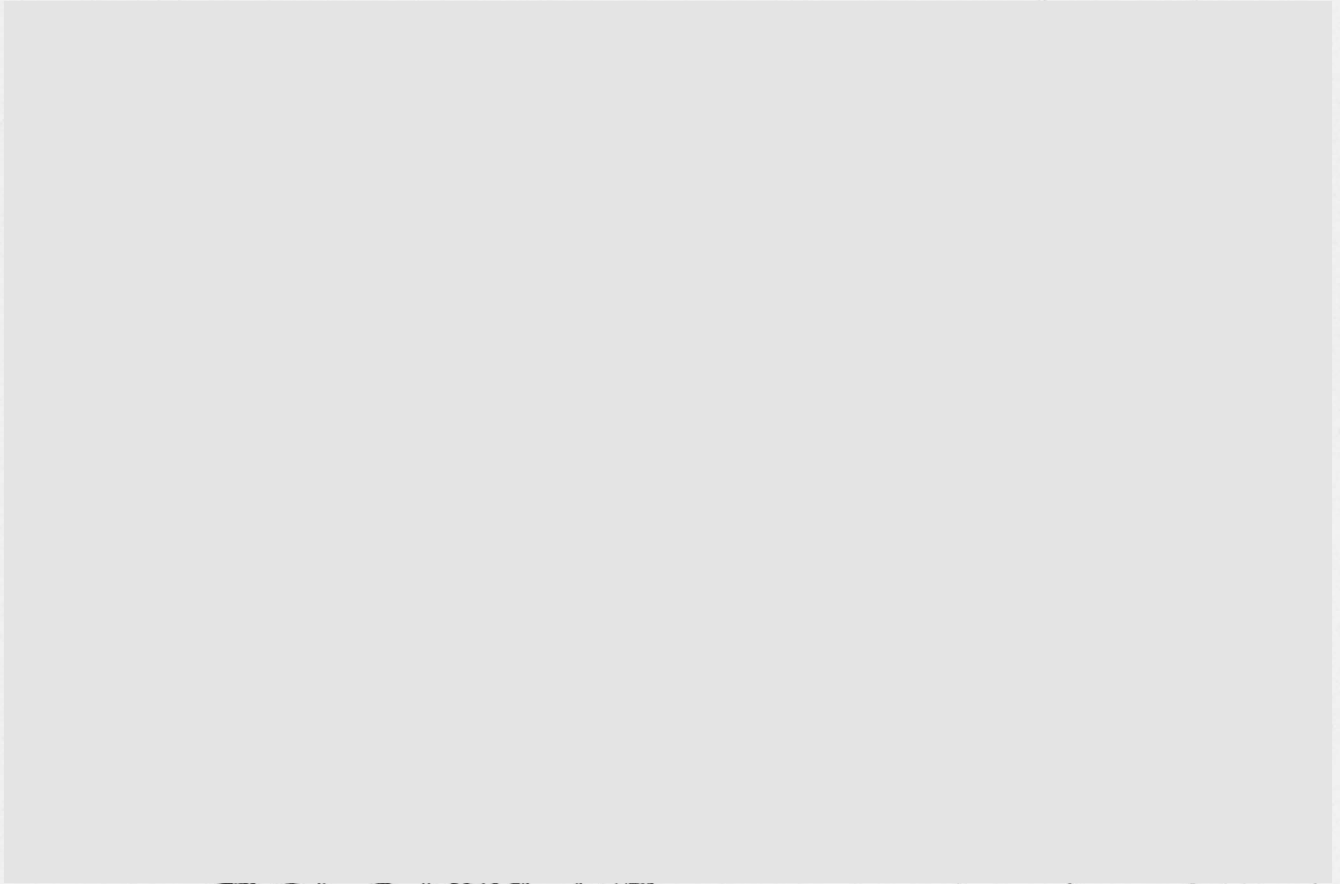
Aides hope that President Ford will be perceived as a man with expertise in foreign policy, since that is the topic of the next debate with Jimmy Carter, Don Oliver reported. (NBC)

NBC featured silent film of Fords' meeting with the foreign ministers in the Oval Office. Oliver's report eased into Dole's comments on Carter and concluded with a stand-up comment. The spot ran second and was given 2:00.

CBS included film of Ford and Dole in the Oval Office, excerpts of Dole's remarks and clips of Ford, HAK and Gromyko in its #5, 1:47 report.

ABC's #2, 2:30 report was included in a wrap-up of the Ford campaign to date. It included film of the President meeting with Gromyko and HAK.

AP, UPI, Networks (10/1/76)



Charleston Gazette, 9/29/76

Voter Apathy Worries Carter

Jimmy Carter, down to an eight point lead over President Ford in the latest Gallup Poll, worried Friday about voter apathy that could doom his campaign for the presidency.

Carter, campaigning through New England, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Maine, was followed by cakes and songs to help him celebrate his 52nd birthday.

Sam Donaldson said that the "old magic of his winning primary days seemed to surround him once again" during his birthday celebration. (ABC)

He continued his attacks on President Ford, citing the "devastating impact of four more years of Gerald Ford." Speaking to Maine AFL-CIO leaders, he said, "There's a lot of apathy in the working people of this country, and you can't much blame them, because of the discouragement and betrayal of the last eight years."

Despite statements to the contrary, Carter tried to exploit the President's golf games paid for by a U.S. Steel lobbyist. "I know the difference in people's lives - between a President who gets his advice, his knowledge, his friendships, his golf fees, his obligation to federal interest groups and lobbyists."

As the campaign moved to Hartford, Conn., Carter confirmed that the Brunswick Pulp and Paper Co. paid for a visit to a forest resort for him and his family in 1972. But, he said state business was discussed with company officials and that the trip was publicized.

Carter stated, "I wouldn't try to say that what I did was more proper and what Mr. Ford did was improper. I think that this was a relationship between me and a very important industry, the forestry industry. There was no attempt to persuade me. The attempt was made to persuade them to let the forestry industry be included within the Natural Resources Department." (NBC, CBS)-- AP, UPI, Nets (10/1/76)

NBC's #4, 2:00 spot showed Carter talking to reporters and film cuts from his AFL-CIO speech in Maine and his speech in Conn. Jamieson wrapped it up with a stand-up comment.

The 2:01 report, which led CBS News, featured Carter with his birthday cake and excerpts of his remarks during the campaign day. Ed Rabel reported.

The Carter story was included in a ABC feature on both presidential campaigns which ran 2:20 in the #4 position with Sam Donaldson reporting.

Carter Denies Campaign is Stalled

Jimmy Carter denied Friday that his campaign has failed to pick up momentum since his presidential nomination.

Speaking in a CBS interview with Walter Cronkite, Carter said, "If you compare my present status with eight or nine months ago, no

campaign has ever soared more quickly or more effectively. And to be ahead in some polls compared to the incumbent President of the United States, who has a unified party behind him, it is a notable achievement.'

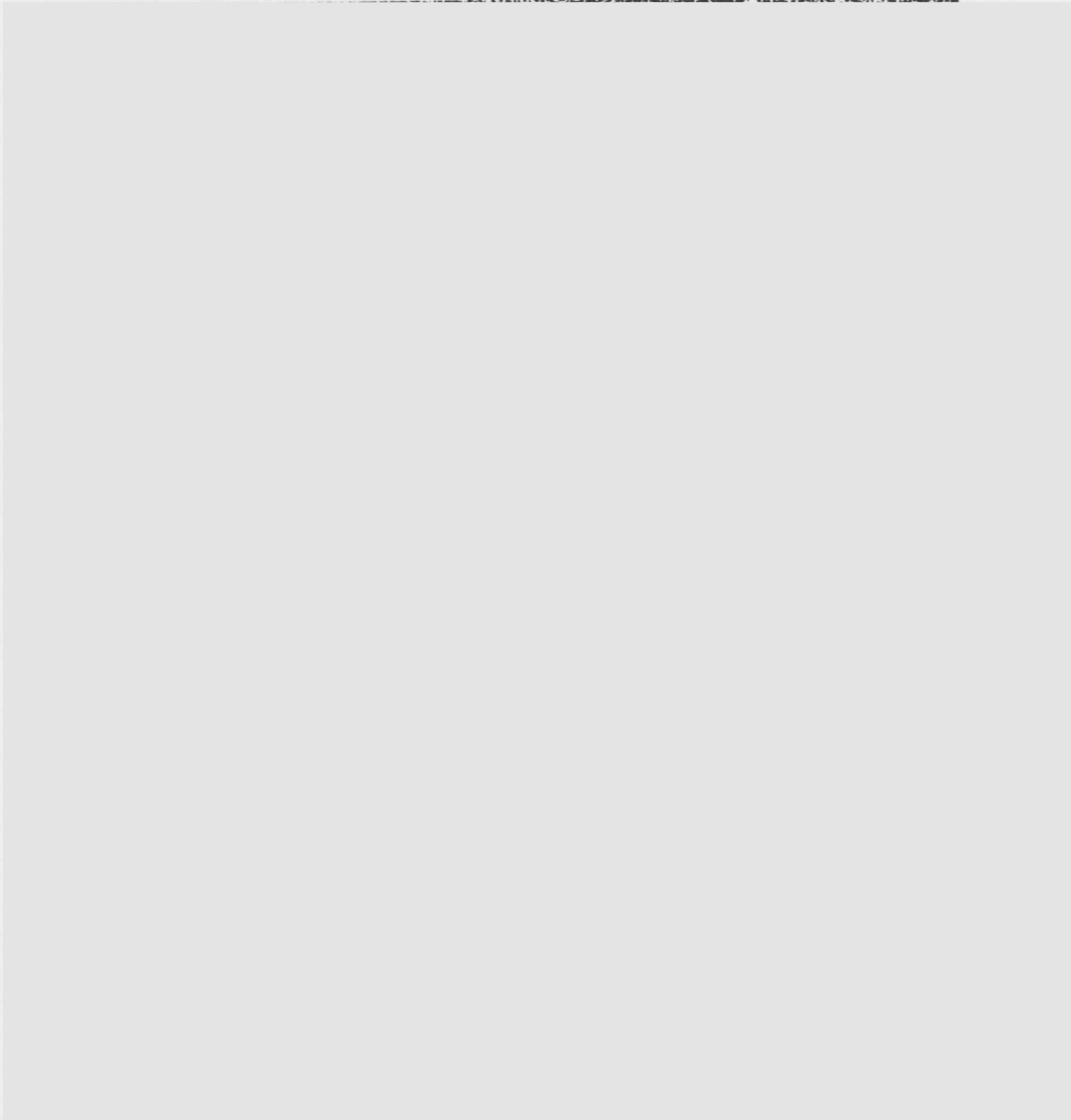
Carter said his campaign mistakes have come under closer scrutiny because he is out every day campaigning. He noted, "There's a profound difference in how we are presenting ourselves. Mr. Ford in seclusion from the White House, from the Rose Garden. And I in the factory lines and shopping centers and meeting with people and being cross-examined every day." Carter added that the President is "deliberately concealing himself from the American people."

Carter acknowledged that his weakest region is the Midwest but said he felt he had a good chance in Michigan and an excellent chance in Kansas.

In reference to the Playboy interview, Carter said the only part of it that concerned him were the "unfortunate" remarks about LBJ. Carter reaffirmed his admiration and respect for LBJ.

Carter also admitted he got off to a shaky start in the first debate. "It was very difficult for me to know how to address the President of the United States on an equal basis ... But after the first couple of questions I realized that Mr. Ford and I are both running for president for the first time," he said. After that Carter said he relaxed and enjoyed the rest of the debate. -- CBS, (10/1/76)

The CBS interview ran 4:38 in the #2 position. The interview was conducted in Maine.



Chattanooga News Free Press,
9/28/76

Issue? The Language Issue? The Playboy Issue? Why not the Judgment Issue?

Whatever, Jimmy Carter has stirred up the country with his interview in Playboy the other day. But in no way is the phrasing of Jesus, as recorded in Holy Scripture, blurted out as usual and an exhortation to examine one's own self where morality is concerned.

CARTER/MONDALE CAMPAIGN

Playboy Interview

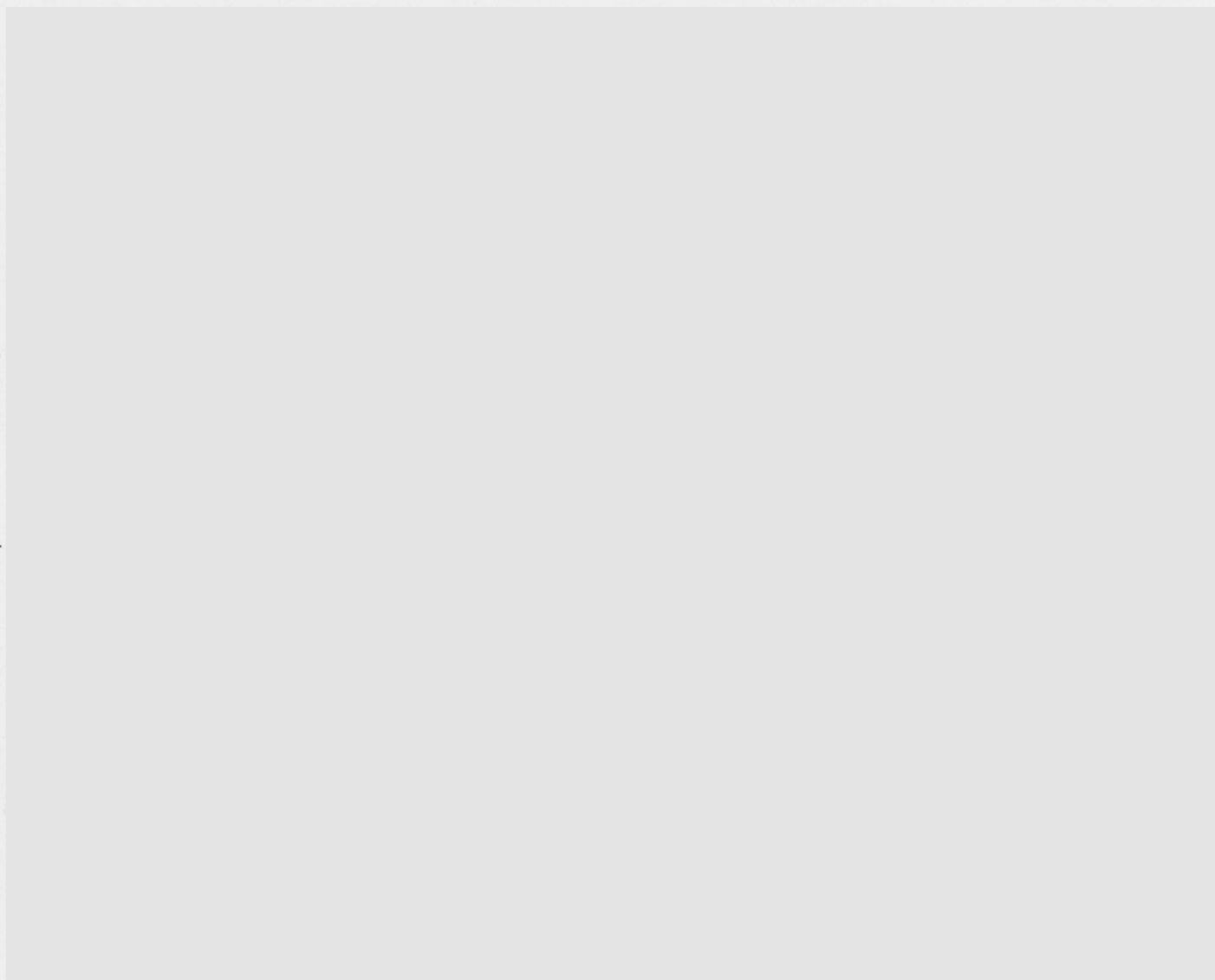
THE JUDGMENT ISSUE
Editorial, excerpted,
Savannah Morning News,
9/24/76

In the non-language of the times, Jimmy Carter seems to have left himself in a no-win position with his decision to grant an interview to *Playboy* magazine.

People, some of them, do not care

good in places, particularly in the repeated reference to the sin of pride, which he rates among the worst of all sins, and his denial of any intent to use the White House as a "bully pulpit" in a sense considerably more literal than

NO PLAYGIRL CENTER-
FOLD, ANYWAY,
Arkansas Gazette,
9/24/76



BUTZ REPRIMANDED FOR RACIST
COMMENT ON BLACK VOTERS

The upcoming edition of the magazine New Times will include a story saying Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz made a racist remark about black voters on an airplane returning from the Republican Convention.

NBC refused to report what Butz said, but noted that on Friday Butz called Transportation Secretary Coleman to apologize, saying it was an extremely bad choice of words.

President Ford called Butz in person on Friday to reprimand him. Butz offered a complete apology and said he regretted any offense. He said he was merely repeating a comment made by a ward politician in a midwestern city, but added even that was a mistake.

Senator Edward Brooke (R-Mass) demanded Butz's resignation.
(NBC, UPI) -- (10/1/76)

Ford: His Impact on US Relations Abroad

By Charlotte Saikowski

It was not a surefooted Gerald Ford who took over the diplomatic ship of state in the fall of 1974. Foreign policy was probably the field in which the new President was least experienced and knowledgeable.

Hence the education of the former congressman from Michigan became an urgent priority of the post-Nixon administration.

"We're starting from scratch," is how one National Security Council official, who helped brief the President on the SALT negotiations (strategic-arms-limitation talks), described those early days in the Oval Office.

Inevitably, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger became the President's teacher and mentor. And, while it is generally agreed Mr. Ford was an apt pupil, he necessarily continued to lean heavily on the guidance and judgments of his Secretary of State and national-security adviser. This meant in effect continuing the policies that won such plaudits for Richard Nixon — the opening to Peking, the search for a better accommodation with the Russians, the effort to restrain the strategic arms race.

Mr. Ford's inexperience aside, the need to assure allies and adversaries abroad that the United States would not abruptly shift course after Mr. Nixon's resignation also dictated a continuity of policy in those first sensitive months after Watergate.

Two years later, however, supporters and critics alike agree that Mr. Ford has not altered the Nixon policies significantly or placed his own stamp on foreign policy. He still works largely through the Secretary of State. Dr. Kissinger is seen as the innovator, the creative and conceptual thinker — while the President focuses largely on day-to-day decisions.

Where distinction was made

"He has not developed his own line the way Nixon did," comments a former Kissinger aide. "Nixon opened the door to China, and you could distinguish where Nixon began and Kissinger left off. Not so with Ford. There's much less a Ford component in foreign policy than there was a Nixon component in the pre-Watergate diplomacy."

Yet, although Dr. Kissinger remains dominant, the President does listen to others in his entourage, such as Treasury Secretary William Simon and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "There's much more competition in the White House for Ford's ear than there was under Nixon," comments one high U.S. official. The fact that Mr. Ford detached Mr. Kissinger from his job as National Security Adviser is viewed as a sign that the President is not afraid to exercise his presidential prerogatives.

In recent months, too, Washington observers detect that Mr. Ford is acting with more independence, reviewing policies more and keeping his Secretary under control.

-How, then, has the President performed?

Taking account of the unusual circumstances of his ascending to the presidency, many people in government and the academic community feel Mr. Ford has done a creditable if not outstanding job. Comments one high State Department official:

"He came into a world he knew nothing about, and he has had to use or be used by an old master — a difficult, touchy man who already was unpalatable to many on the Hill. He has not avoided the major things, and he has trusted where he has needed to."

Lack of questioning noted

"Where I don't give him high marks," the official continued, "is that it's not his nature to be analytical or inquisitive, so he does not question things."

Concurs a scholar and former National Security Council (NSC) official: "He's done pretty well. It's the best he could have done under the circumstances. If he were a more innovative man there could have been new policies. I'd say he's been a good defensive player."

Most analysts note the President has faced many obstacles in the conduct of foreign policy. For one thing, he has been necessarily preoccupied with domestic economic affairs. Then, after the Watergate scandal and the sad experience of the Vietnam war, Congress began playing an active and sometimes opposition role in foreign policy — not only because of loss of respect for the executive branch but out of growing distrust of Secretary Kissinger.

As a result, the President often finds himself stymied. In 1973 the Congress had already enacted the war-powers resolution making the president more accountable to the Legislature. In 1974, because of the Cyprus crisis, it cut off aid to Turkey against Mr. Ford's wishes and placed limitations on his use of economic and military-aid funds — a move that created problems for Western security and U.S. bases in the eastern Mediterranean. Last year it probed the federal intelligence apparatus and set up committees to monitor the CIA and other activities. More recently, it blocked administration policy by cutting off aid to Angola.

Strain with Congress grows

Unfortunately for Mr. Ford, it is his own Secretary of State who has exacerbated the strain with Congress. Dr. Kissinger's standing with the legislators appears to be at an all-time low. "There's a distinct feeling here that Kissinger is not leveling with us," says one congressional source, "that he thinks Congress is something to be tolerated at best and a menace at worst. He talks about shared responsibility, but deep down he does not care what Congress thinks. He's discredited now, and this tends to rub off on the President."

Assessing his record on specific issues, foreign-policy observers give the President mixed marks. He is credited with making some tough and at times unpopular decisions. He put in a huge request for aid for South Vietnam, for instance, when that country was on the verge of collapse. After the loss of Cambodia to the communists, he ordered the rescue of the freighter Mayaguez — an action questioned by some as an overreaction but seen by many as a salutary move, reminding people that the United States had power and was willing to act.

The debates and voter turnout

In all of the discussion of who "won" the first of the Carter-Ford debates, we may be overlooking their best result—the very real possibility that they will increase the voter turnout on Nov. 2. Voter turnout has declined — to 61.8 per cent in 1964, 60.7 per cent in 1968, and 55.4 per cent in 1972. If voter turnout should fall below 50 per cent this year, as the Hart poll suggested it might, it would be the low-

StocksECONOMY

MARKET CLOSES WORST WEEK
OF THE YEAR

Prices plunged Friday on the New York Stock Exchange as the stock market finished its worst week of the year because of government reports confirming a serious economic slowdown.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 10.30 points to 979.89, finishing the week with a loss of 29.42 points. This was the worst setback since a skid of 41.87 points in the week ended December 5, 1975.

Selling intensified just prior to the Commerce Department's report August factory orders fell 0.8 percent and factory inventories rose 0.6 percent to a record \$152.75 billion.

The report dealt another crippling blow to Wall Street, already reeling from the effects of the Commerce Department's report earlier this week that its leading economic indicators fell in August.

In addition, the Labor Department had reported the factory layoff rate in August rose to its highest level since last November.

The news has been so depressing that many economists have lowered their estimates for the economy's growth in the third quarter.

The stock market's slide was widespread. The NYSE common stock index lost 0.53 to 55.70 and the average price of a common share decreased 33 points. Standard & Poor's 500 stock index lost 1.07 to 104.17.

Prices closed lower in moderate trading on the American Stock Exchange. AP,UPI,ABC,CBS -- (10/1/76)

'Now to see which' comes on fastest:
the recovery or my creditors.'

