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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 16, 1975

TO: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR.

X FOR YOUR INFORMATION
____ FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION
____ FOR YOUR COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS
## PRESS COMMENTS

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(Prepared by John Calhoun, Office of Public Liaison)
Ford's Five-Hour Blitz of Seattle

Defends Mideast Pact

President Ford mixed campaign-style politics and a hard sell for his Middle East peace agreement during a five-hour sweep of Seattle with six of his top Administration officials.

It was a broad display of Presidential power, at times looking like a sneak preview of the 1976 election, but also a sober effort to sound out public opinion in the Northwest.

He told 2,000 enthusiastic Republicans at a fundraising luncheon: "Too many Americans have relied much too long on the government in Washington ... I think it is time to look elsewhere -- more to Washington State for example, and less to Washington, D.C.

About 100 demonstrators outside the Exhibition Hall were drowned out by the roar of partisan approval.

Just Like A Candidate

Ford's five-hour sprint through Seattle left GOP politicians and supporters beaming in his wake.

He appeared at two fundraising functions that pulled the GOP out of debt.

His other reason for coming to Seattle was to attend a "non-political" White House Conference on domestic and economic affairs.

It was nonpartisan. It was nonpolitical. It was the power of incumbency to capture public attention and focus on the Ford Administration through a "frank dialogue" between officials and conference participants.

Candidate Ford was outside shaking hands. President Ford was inside listening to the people. His Administration officials seemed to be everywhere -- at small dinners, intimate interviews, on television and talking with plain people.

Ford upstaged them all. "This is the only state where you can be all wet and still get elected," he told one partisan audience.

"If you're listening, Scoop, I'm only kidding."

Seattle Post-Intelligencer 9/5/75
All Was Sunny For President

Seattle's reaction to President Ford's fast-traveling White House show was like the weather -- sparkling, sunny, and warm.

Maybe it's that people here like the way he's running the Nation. Maybe not. Perhaps it's a reaction to the wholly nonimperious, old-shoe style of the guy from Grand Rapids.

More likely, it was mainly that the President of the United States was coming around to see the folks again.

Whatever the reason, President Ford encountered smiling faces and waving arms almost everywhere he went. He often went into crowds, shook outthrust hands and said, "Hi, nice to see you."

The President came to town to address a regional White House Conference, but there was no doubt that his speeches to two smash-success GOP luncheons, visit to the hospital and other appearances, were all pure 1976 Presidential campaigning. -- Seattle Times
9/5/75
Ford-Visit by-product: Politics As Usual

President Ford arrived in Seattle with all the hoopla of an election campaign as he opened his West Coast swing.

A speech at the "regional White House Conference" was the prime feature of Presidential business on his Seattle schedule.

This trip brought him into territory lush with political significance.

Glowing with the sense of achievement in the Middle East peace settlement, Mr. Ford was coming smack into the home state of Senator Henry M. Jackson, a tough critic of the Ford-Kissinger foreign policy.

Embattled with a Democratic Congress, he was coming into the home state of Senator Warren G. Magnuson, a Senate kinpin who's called Mr. Ford more conservative than Herbert Hoover.

His participation in GOP fundraising luncheons can be expected to retire the 1972 debts of the local party. His trip brought together liberal-moderate and conservative elements of the Washington State GOP. -- The Seattle Times 9/4/75
The President: Press Comments

Ford States Resolve to Boost Economy

The worst days of America's recession are over, but "far too high" unemployment and energy independence remain major problems to solve, the President told more than 1,000 representatives of business, minority groups, environmental organizations and news media in Seattle.

Answering questions from the audience, President Ford commented on several major issues:

- Need for growth in the Nation's economy
- Veto of a new consumer department
- Elimination of regulations that plague business
- Serious natural gas shortage this winter
- Deregulation of natural gas
- Inflation
- Better utilization of coal
- Improved participation in government

- Everett Washington Herald 9/5/75

War Whoops and Boos Greet Ford at Center

Indian war whoops and boos from less than 200 picketing demonstrators greeted President Ford as he entered Exhibition Hall at Seattle Center for a GOP fundraising luncheon.

Among the demonstrators were these groups: The Survival of the American Indian Association, The Labor Progressive Party, The Socialist Worker Party, The Seattle Liberation Coalition, and The Seattle De La Raza.

The group chanted "Stop the War on Indian Land," alluding to the FBI-Indian confrontation on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

The group later dwindled to about 50 who marched down Fifth Avenue to the Olympic Hotel where another GOP fundraising luncheon was to be held.

About 30 commercial fishermen also picketed a local court decision. -- Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Ford Gets Lots of Mileage Out of His Trips

Exposure is what every politician craves, and President Ford has developed a system for getting as much of it as humanly possible whenever he travels outside Washington.

His plan is to blitz every town he visits, jamming a variety of events -- speeches, ceremonies, press conferences -- into a short period of time.

In Seattle he managed to give an arrival speech, address two GOP groups, answer questions from civic groups, visit a new cancer research center and meet with some local GOP candidates, all within five hours.

Better still, from Ford's viewpoint, was the fact that two of the events -- his arrival and the hour long interrogation by civic groups -- were presented live on statewide television.

Virtually everything the President does on his trips outside Washington -- they will continue almost every weekend until the end of the year -- is tailored to generate the maximum political impact on whatever state he is visiting.

An entourage of White House reporters with him receive little in the way of news. His speeches break no new ground.

If his message doesn't come through loudly when he conveys it from Washington, this problem is eliminated when he spells it out in person.

White House officials insure that his campaigning is always from the most congenial forum. This ordinarily means speeches to Republicans, who cheer his conservative rhetoric lustily, and question-and-answer sessions with newsmen or civic leaders.

Ford advisers are convinced that he comes across best when responding to questions, and the ones he gets outside Washington are usually soft and easy to answer. -- Fred Barnes, Washington Star, 9/5/75
Ford Repeats Conservative Line In Speeches to GOP on Coast

President Ford declared at a Republican rally in Seattle that the party should be "prepared to govern, but not to dominate the American people."

Beginning a two-day political and official foray along the West Coast, the President resumed an essentially conservative approach to national issues.

The long day began at sunup in Washington. He scheduled 12 public appearances -- and six speeches, three of them on live local television in Seattle, Portland, Ore., and Sacramento, Calif.

They included a question session at a regional White House conference in Seattle, a visit to a cancer research center and a dozen GOP functions. -- New York Times 9/5/75

Is There A Ford In Seattle's Future?

The Seattle Chamber of Commerce is inviting nearly 1,000 to attend a White House Conference next month despite the fact that no one seems willing to admit that such a meeting will take place.

The expectations are that President Ford will visit Seattle on September 4 with at least four Cabinet officers and other top officials from his Administration.

"We're handling the logistics of mailing the invitations for the White House, " said A. H. Coolidge of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, "but I can't confirm anything."

"We haven't confirmed a conference in Seattle," said John Shlaes, who was helping with a conference in Milwaukee. "I can only tell you that in the past we try to bring to the community where we're having a conference a number of people who make policy decisions. We want to get increased rapport between, ah, the people, ah, and the ah, leaders in government."

"But I can't confirm a thing," he said. -- Seattle Post Intelligencer 8/15/75
Ford 'Go Slow' Approach Evident

President Ford answered 15 questions in about an hour during the White House Conference.

All but one of the generally friendly questions were posed by members of the 14 institutions and groups which co-sponsored the conference.

His most emphatic answer came on questions about his plan to veto a bill creating a Federal consumer protection agency and whether the country can continue to grow at past rates without ruining the environment.

He said he had instructed his White House Adviser for Consumer Affairs to work with Federal departments on ways of increasing consumer protection. This will "do the job" without adding another layer of bureaucracy, the President said.

On growth rates and the environment, he said the country must continue to grow if we are to provide jobs for the 1.6 million young people entering the labor force each year. He added that he is optimistic that if managed properly, the country can grow without despoiling the environment.

Other questions ran the gamut from inflation to the 200-mile offshore limit. -- The Seattle Times 9/5/75
The President and All

(Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Page One, Sept. 4, 1975)

His People

Today's Visit
To Seattle

BY SHELBY SCATES
P-I Political Writer

Fresh from a conference with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on a Middle East peace agreement, President Ford flew here today to join state and local officials for a Presidential Town Hall Meeting.

About 120 persons will attend the all-day conference at the Olympic Hotel with the President and cabinet officers.

I'll introduce him to demonstrators for treaty rights on the streets outside.

Another 100 or so participants will see the President at a July 4th Republican Party dinner and American Legion Post 49 at the Olympic Hotel.

Another Democrat, the GOP state chairman, was jubilant yesterday.

"The backbone of the Republican Party (the people) are a talent and we're trying to figure out a way to get enough people into the large reception halls at the Olympic for a second lunch," Dr. David Mathews, he said.

"For the first time in 15 years the state and local and county party organizations are in the black as a result of this fund-raising..."

Davis brushed aside grumblings of criticism from some conference sponsors about the mingling of partisan politics with the White House meeting.

William Barrowy, the President's assistant for public liaison and conference chairman, admitted that "as far as I can perceive, the visit isn't hurting Ford's political popularity..." But that, he said, is the happy fallout of a new White House policy of going out to "meet the people to listen to complaints and answer questions..."

Seems to be the eighth city he's staged

Back Page, Column 1
'Pecking At A Mountain Of HUD Problems'

Reporters flock to Carla Anderson Hills, Secretary of HUD because she is the third female Cabinet woman in history.

"Carla is a public relations man's dream," one HUD insider remarked. "She attracts people who ordinarily wouldn't be interested in HUD."

Hills arrived in Seattle as one member of President Ford's entourage participating in the Town Hall meeting.

In a telephone interview, the HUD Secretary said "Seattle would not be a forum for a major policy speech." She will meet with Alaskan housing officials, newsmen, and co-sponsors of the Town Hall conference and make a brief state-of-HUD-address.

Pointing to the 85-5 vote that put her in the top HUD chair last March, she brushes aside criticism from her opponents -- National Association of Home Builders, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and various Democratic Senators.

At 41, Hills says she neither looks back at what "I've done, and I don't worry about the future. I am pecking away at an absolute mountain of problems at HUD." -- Post Intelligencer 9/3/75

(one-half page with photo)
Only Cabinet woman called 'really smooth'

By PATRICIA FOOTE

"She is really smooth," someone whispered as Carla A. Hills, secretary of housing and urban development, fielded questions at yesterday's regional White House Conference here.

"That woman is tough," another said after a morning press conference.

Mrs. Hills, only the third woman Cabinet member, inspired those comments with her command of facts and figures, her reasoned and logical answers and a measured delivery that could have come from her background as a lawyer.

She was asked hard questions... and invariably had answers. The only nagging reservation was that in an interview, press conference, a speech and a question-and-answer period, the answers were all the same. Almost word for word.

Of course, Mrs. Hills is asked the same questions all the time. Still, she leaves one hoping for something other than information in immeasured packets.

The only time the composed head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development appeared even slightly confused was when she was asked how she felt about Betty Ford's contention that the First Lady got Carla Hills' job.

Lady got Carla Hills appointed to the Cabinet, using methods such as "pillow talk" to persuade the President. Mrs. Hills said she was responsible for solving her own problems.

"...If the federal government keeps its heavy hand out of local decision-making, the cities are up to the job and ready to move," Mrs. Hills said in a speech.

"I'm not going to tell you that all of our worries about urban problems are behind us... but we are moving and I am... cautiously optimistic... about the future."

She began her speech describing the crisis in the nation's cities and the complaints of almost everyone concerned with housing -- suppliers, builders, planners, householders and those who can't afford houses.

"Who would want to be at the Department of Housing and Urban Development at this time...?"

She asked, and then answered her own question. "I would."

HER GOALS FOR HUD include using all the tools at its command to provide housing for lower-income persons, to make H.U.D. more efficient, to address consumer concerns and to provide equal opportunities for decent shelter.

Mrs. Hills took the post in March. Before that time she headed the Department of Justice Civil Division as an assistant-attorney general for 11 months. She has worked in private practice, written books and taught at the University of California at Los Angeles.
HUD Chief Lauds Bloc-Grant Concept

Helping cities solve their housing and neighborhood problems will continue to be a top priority in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In an interview before her speech at the White House Conference, HUD Secretary Carla Hills said the new community-bloc programs are a "tremendous improvement" over the categorical allocations made by HUD for community development.

She said that about 60 percent of the $2.5 billion allocated this year in community bloc grants is going for neighborhood preservation with nine percent going for rehabilitation loans.

Bloc grants permit the local governments to decide how to spend the money.

Mrs. Hills, HUD Secretary since March, explained the goals of her department. -- The Seattle Times 9/4/75
Tax Shelters? Hills Worried

BY DON CARTER
P-I Real Estate Editor
Carla Hills, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, said yesterday she was "very worried" about the impact which the possible elimination of real-estate tax shelters might have on federal programs to provide housing for the poor through rent subsidies.

Mrs. Hills was in Seattle for the White House Conference when she received news that the House Ways and Means Committee had voted to eliminate the shelters, which help many higher-income Americans avoid income taxes.

Returning to Washington, D.C., last night, Mrs. Hills said she had already requested an analysis of the tax shelters' impact and would be conducting meetings to discuss it today.

Her concern is that removal of the tax shelters, which are an incentive for investors to build, own, and operate income-producing real estate, might dampen hopes for private-sector participation in the nation's housing problem.

That program encourages private owners, to rehabilitate homes for rent to low-income persons, whose rent would be subsidized by direct payments from the federal government. The idea is to disperse low-income persons throughout the community, rather than concentrating them in public housing projects which become instant ghettos.

In her address to the conference, Mrs. Hills said she was "cautiously optimistic" that current federal programs and national economic recovery would bring a turnaround in the nation's housing problem.

Major points she hit:

- Waste is the biggest single cause of urban decay - "it is far less expensive to recycle a city than it is to build a suburb." She feels "block grants" given to cities for preservation and rehabilitation will be a significant force in the recycling operation.

- "Contagious inflation" is the main problem of the housing industry - and people who would like to buy homes. She noted that the median income family - making $13,000 a year - can support a home costing $32,500; but that the median price of a new home is $39,000.

- Eliminating the projects, leaving a nonessential row or two unfinished, and reducing the size of new homes, which have grown about 150 percent since 1950, could reduce the price of a new home by $17,000 or as much as $30,000, she said.

- Current levels of subsidies for new-home mortgages shouldn't be increased, because an increase would necessarily require more treasury borrowing. This, she said, would force up interest rates further and would amount to "arming the hydra-headed monster we're all trying to conquer."

P-I Photo by Tom Brownet
Tax-Cut Extension Still Iffy For Adviser

President Ford will have to decide soon on whether or not to extend the 1975 tax cut, but one of his close economic advisers has not made up his mind on what advice he will give the Chief Executive.

L. William Seidman said opinion is divided within the Administration on a tax cut policy.

Labor Secretary John Dunlop feels that the consumer needs to retain the additional spending power to fight the recession.

Seidman has indicated that his advice will hinge on the latest possible economic statistics and whether or not Congress is holding the line on Federal spending.

Seidman said that despite several vetoes of spending programs, the Federal deficit will probably exceed $60 billion because of Congressional overrides of vetoes in the health care field.

-- The Seattle Times 9/4/75

U.S. Economy On Long Climb, Says Ford Aide

The economy is definitely making a recovery, according to L. William Seidman. President Ford echoed the theme later, but warned:

"Let's be frank, we have a long way to go."

Seidman said that unemployment has stabilized at 8.4 percent but "continues far too high."

He said that the Administration's policy calls for "a job for everyone who wants to work and is qualified."

Inflation will have to be brought under control first, according to Seidman. He said that an inflation rate of 2 to 3 percent a year along with an unemployment rate of 4 to 5 percent "can be achieved"; however, he placed no timetable on it.

He placed the Administration's number one economic goal as "recovery with growth -- without inflation." This can only be achieved by holding the line on government spending.

-- Seattle Post-Intelligencer 9/5/75
Check Economy -- By The Pound.

Presidential economic adviser L. William Seidman weighs his decisions carefully -- literally.

No kidding.

He's a man who can tell you -- by the pound -- the way things are going.

Seidman studies economic statistics as closely as anyone in the country, but he has an unusual way of determining the direction of the economy.

He keeps two lists of economic indicators -- a "positive" list and a "negative" list. He can tell the direction of the economy by simple comparison of the weight of the pages in each stack.

The positive lists currently contain nine pages, the negative lists, two.

That's pretty good because six months ago, he said, the lists were almost exactly reversed.

The system, he hinted, is almost as scientific as any other method of measuring the economy. -- Post Intelligencer 9/5/75
Business Plans Less Spending

The Commerce Department revised its 1975 capital expenditures downward to $113.5 billion and Commerce Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton in Seattle said this "underscores the need for governmental policies that encourage capital investment."

Morton said after an adjustment for inflation, business investments for 1975 will fall far below 1974 and "the removal of unnecessary regulations" is important to prevent restraining capital spending that could enhance economic prospects for millions in future years.

This same theme was mentioned by a number of government officials attending the White House Conference. -- Post Intelligencer 9/5/75
Cities Told To Do Better Job Of Transportation Planning

American cities must do a better job of planning transportation systems and estimating the costs to build those systems, Transportation Secretary Coleman said in Seattle.

Coleman said the message was a warning that the Department of Transportation does not intend to throw down the drain $12 billion it has to aid development of public transit systems.

"We want cities to make realistic estimates ... and we will act quickly and make commitments", Coleman said. "If they need more money the cities will have to provide the more", he said.

In other issues, the Transportation Secretary said:

-- Legislation to reduce regulation of the trucking industry will be sent to Congress soon and a bill reforming airline regulations will be ready in two weeks.

-- Rate flexibility will be provided for the railroads.

-- The Federal Government will continue to support the idea of buying from the low bidder even when it is a foreign firm.

-- He supported giving the local community more flexibility in transportation planning.

Seattle Times 9/4/75

More Competition Proposed

The Ford Administration is proposing increased fare competition for the Nation's airlines, Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman said here at the opening of the White House Conference.

Coleman said the Administration is preparing an airline-regulation-reform bill which would allow reasonable fare competition.

He said airlines would be able to peg rates up to 15 percent above or below what they presently are.

Coleman's wide-ranging speech took the President's programs directly to the people in view of the balky Congress that must be faced.

-- The Seattle Times 9/4/75
An SST Some Day -- Coleman

U.S. Transportation Secretary William T. Coleman said in Seattle that America "can't shut off history" and refuse to build a supersonic aircraft.

Coleman, in Seattle for the "Presidential Town Hall Meeting", said it was his personal opinion, but "man will somehow make use of technological breakthroughs."

The Boeing-designed SST was "better in every respect" than the British-French Concord, he said.

The Administration intends to help public transportation with local cooperation, but not at the expense "of making the automobile obsolete."

In line with the Administration's policy of "getting government out of business", he said plans are underway to allow a 15 percent leeway in air carrier rates to encourage competition.

Overregulation that he insisted has hamstrung railroads will be relaxed.

He said repeatedly that states and local governments must "show their commitment" to public transportation by producing matching funds. -- Seattle Post Intelligencer 9/5/75
U.S. Health-Insurance Program Up In Air

National health insurance, any timetable and price tag, is still up in the air, according to HEW Secretary David Mathews.

"We will be seeking a comprehensive solution. It is a question of options", Mathews said.

"We have got to put some caps on the costs" of malpractice insurance, he told the Seattle Conference. The malpractice "thing" has caused doctors strikes and retirements, increased health costs, was described as a "round robin" situation by Mathews. Doctors, lawyers, insurance companies, the courts, and patients are sitting in a circle pointing their fingers at each other, he added, "It has the capacity to drive health-care costs right through the roof."

-- Seattle Times 9/5/75

Hospital Nursing Home Rules To Be Revised

In a major agreement with organized medicine, the government agreed yesterday to revise regulations that would have set stiff new Federal standards for hospitals, nursing homes for subsidized poor and elderly patients.

HEW Secretary Mathews said the goals of preventing Federal funding of unnecessary admissions and inappropriate medical procedures remain unchanged. But he added that new rules would be drafted to replace the present requirements, subject of a suit brought against HEW by the American Medical Association.

-- Post Intelligencer 9/5/75
HEW Chief Would Uphold Busing Laws, But...

Dr. F. David Mathews, Secretary of HEW said he would uphold school busing laws and court decisions, but hedged when asked if he favors his own children being bussed.

Pressed as to his views on busing as a parent, Mathews said: "If my children were in a school situation where there was court-ordered busing, and they were involved in public schools, they would be involved like everybody else's kids."

Mathews said that he had found from the experience of his children in integrated schools that "they mastered it very well."

He said that the focus of his office "out of personal experience" will be to assist teachers and school districts with whatever is necessary to help them with desegregation problems.

Mathews said that HEW must carry out laws and court rulings on busing and desegregation "irrespective of whether the Secretary agrees or disagrees, and I expect to do that." -- The Seattle Times 9/5/75

Mathews Seeking Welfare Changes

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare David Mathews -- stressing the need for self-reliance on the part of the public -- told an audience that he is looking for ways to make changes in the way the welfare system is run.

He said he is not comfortable with the idea of a guaranteed income, saying "the purpose of public assistance is to get people off welfare and into productive employment."

Speaking on discrimination and affirmative action, he said the public must understand that his department is not the sole party responsible for enforcing that issue.

He called upon the people to "redevelop the capacity to become more dependent on themselves for health protection."

-- Seattle Post-Intelligencer 9/5/75
Morton Asks No End To Oil Plan

Although there are "very serious inequities" in the programs which equalized the cost of crude oil to oil-refining companies, the Administration feels it must be continued, Secretary Morton said in Seattle.

Independent refiners in the Northeast states would be hurt by ending the program. Some of them might "even bite the dust," he said.

Morton, head of the Administration's Energy Resources Council, said he is frustrated at the inability of Congress to come to grips with an energy program. -- Seattle Times 9/4/75
Morton Cites Hydro, Nuclear Power Need

BY DAN COUGHLIN
P-I Business Editor

Commerce Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton stressed here yesterday increased investment in Pacific Northwest hydroelectric and nuclear power generation and underground exploration.

He also called for international agreements, not unilateral U.S. action, on establishing a 200-mile territorial water's edge, and for a "reasonable" program of salmon fisheries to be drafted soon by Washington State, government and Indian tribes.

He described as "stupid" the potential use of federal money to assist reconstruction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline — but great private money might bring the project to completion and place it on the map and make it a part of the Alaska North Slope.

He said the pipeline should cross Alaska or Canada to bring the gas to market.

He said the 1977 federal budget will contain "quite a few bucks" for development work by the National Ocean and Atmosphere Administration's new Western headquarters at the old Sand Point Naval Air Station.

Morton, who retired last year as the Energy General Manager, now lives in the Sand Point Naval Support Activity.

"I'd say, we'd better get on with it," he said.

Before taking over the Commerce post, Morton served as secretary of the interior, a position that brought him into closer contact with Indian tribal problems, he said.

"I still have a great emotional involvement with the parks, public lands and all the rest of interior." He also called the Interior Department and its agencies to work with the Indian tribes, especially those that depend on salmon fisheries.

"But, we want to do our share," he said.

"I hope the decision won't be made off the cuff," he said.

"The Commerce Department is said to represent business' point of view and other agencies and Indian tribes' points of view are quick to seize upon in almost any policy debate," he said.

Morton said he couldn't take a stand yet on the Alaska natural gas line question because, as chairman of the National Energy Resources Council, he may later be required to present his views on the required environmental impact study, yet he said he can't argue against the probable design of an impact study, yet he said he can't argue against the probable design of an impact study.

"I hope experts" do oil and gas in the future, he said.

Unresolved pipeline questions turn among other things he said, on the availability of the apples for apple.
The Environment Or The Economy? Both, Says Russell Train

Environmentalists are not "prophets of shortages" but "prophets of common sense," according to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell Train.

Train made his remarks in response to a question put to him by a participant in the White House Field Conference.

He told a questioner that environmentalists were talking about the energy crisis long ago and were trying to stop waste. He added, "pollution, as you know, is really a waste of natural resources."

Environmental and economic goals "need not be divergent," he said. In pointing out the cost problems in stopping pollution, Train explained the $5 billion being spent in grants by EPA, including the $65 million in Washington State. "Those grants are also providing jobs in the construction industry," he said.

Train stated his opposition to efforts to put a moratorium on nuclear power plants.

"The President is committed to solving the energy problems of the country and he doesn't want to do it by unraveling all the progress we have made in cleaning up the environment," Train continued.

He admitted to losing some important environmental battles in the White House, "but there is no question that my views are heard and considered by the President."

-- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

9/5/75
Head of EPA Has Mastered Environmental Politics

Russell E. Train, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, conducted a breezy defense of his agency, environmentalism and the President, during his visit to Seattle.

The interest in the environment was reflected in the heavy demand on Train's time. He conducted 14 private interviews in 3-1/2 hours one morning, and except for time spent on the platform, met with environmentalists and industry types anxious to bend his ear on one issue or another.

Under fire much of the time, Train handled criticism of the Ford Administration and his agency with smiling aplomb, leaving no doubt that his role is as much that of the politician as that of the administrator.

The theme of Train's visit was balanced compromise.

He told one group that "our energy problems are related more than anything else to the phenomenal waste of resources in this country." -- The Seattle Times 9/7/75
Economics In Big Doses

Seattleites got a swift dose of upper level economics and politics along, perhaps, with advance crowd control.

The occasion was the White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs, and a galaxy of governmental officials made the trip from the other Washington.

It was good theater, sound economics, and better politics all mixed around in one proportion or another.

The state of the economy was the big news. The unanimity of views expressed by the speakers was remarkable. -- Dan Coughlin, Post-Intelligencer 9/7/75

Men Listen While Others Ask Questions

The audience at the Seattle White House Conference was predominately white male, but they kept to their seats as minorities and women marched to the microphones and fired questions at Members of the Cabinet.

The audience of about 900 appeared to be about 20 percent women and minorities. They listened as Blacks, Indians and senior citizen groups expressed their concern.

Comments after the morning session were mixed. Many found Cabinet Members interesting and receptive to questions. "And I was pleased with the quality of questions asked from the floor", one man said.

Some found fault, "It's pretty boring", a woman said. "I think it's just a buildup for Jerry Ford."

A representative from the Seattle Indian Center said "we just have to judge what comes from this."

"I was impressed," one man said, "I expected a one-sided show ... but most of the questions seemed to be directed from the inner-city, environment and consumer interest." -- Seattle Times 9/5/75
Ford visit may be hit as campaigning

By Michael S. Parks

The White House aide in charge of tomorrow's presidential campaign has been asked to resign.

The government has a lot of manpower-training programs, but none that takes

Barzey said he believes

correct this by asking sponsors to save a percentage of their tickets for nonmembers.

A few tickets also are re-

P-26

Conference General

September 3, 1975
Morton Cites Benefits of White House Conference

The White House Conferences around the country are directly benefiting the President and his Cabinet, according to Commerce Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton.

"The President gets an opportunity to be President outside of the White House. I think this is exceedingly important to a President," Morton said.

He noted that the recent Milwaukee Conference gave him a chance to meet with a variety of people.

"There are many productive opportunities," Morton said.

-- The Seattle Times 9/3/75

This 'Town Hall' Meeting Isn't Free -- Pay $20

The complaint:

"What's this stuff about a 'Presidential town hall meeting'?" The letter says 'registration $20 -- payable in advance' for the White House Conference.

"Since when did you have to pay $20 to get to a town hall meeting?"

The check out:

Since the White House turned over arrangements to civic organizations, they rented the halls, made the arrangements. These were expensive.

Doug Lee, the White House man in charge of the conference, says either the participants pay or it comes out of tax dollars. He also says there will be extra seats for those who do not have the $20.

Finally, Lee apologizes for not having told the press that there would be a $20 charge for those attending this "nonpolitical" conference.

-- Post-Intelligencer 8/30/75
Come Back Soon,
Mr. President

For a few hours yesterday, the power of the government of the United States was in the person of the President and seven high administration officials residing in the Grand Ballroom of the Olympic Hotel in Seattle.

The nation's leaders—those who make the decisions that affect the environment, transportation, the economy, housing, commerce, health, education and welfare—left their air-conditioned offices in the nation's capital and met the people on their own home ground.

The President of the United States proved that he is a man who knows how to close a communication gap.

When asked how confidence in government can be restored, Ford said: "Without it, the capability of government to do its job is eroded." He said that people want their leaders to come out of smoke-filled rooms and give citizens an opportunity to participate in decisions so that they will feel part of something once again.

Indeed, from the reaction of the audience, the President appears to be on the right track. If this President, who seems to understand the problems of alienation, can make a success of his town hall project, he will have helped to give government back to the people.

Partly because of adverse economic conditions and the government's seeming inability to deal with simultaneous recession and inflation, but principally because of Vietnam and the revelations of Watergate, Americans have less confidence in their government than ever before.

As an unselected president, Ford has an even greater obligation to counteract this disastrous disaffection.

Admirably, the President, in undertaking this series of town meetings, is bringing government closer to the people and the people closer to government.

During the day's encounter, cabinet members and other high White House officials fielded some tough questions about government policies from a knowledgeable cross-section of Northwest civic and business leaders.

Cabinet members heard a wide spectrum of views ranging from the apprehension of aluminum company executive's complaint about restrictive environmental controls to a Seattle Central Area leader's contention that HUD policies encourage the deterioration of inner cities. Bringing cabinet members out of their ivory towers to a place where they can see and hear the people can be nothing but therapeutic for them.

At the very least, such confrontations are refreshing. At best, they may result in corrective action at the very highest policy-making levels of government.

The impetus of yesterday's White House Conference was summed up in an anecdote told by the President during his opening remarks. Ford said a letter had been received at the White House addressed to "President Gerald Ford or Vice President Nelson Rockefeller or Secretary of State Henry Kissinger or to just plain anyone who will listen."

Ford and his entourage surely gave the impression that someone in Washington has ears.
Richard L. Strout

Folksy Ford meets the folks

Washington

I have just read through two dozens of President Ford's recent on-the-road press conferences, speeches, and interviews. I did this to get a verbatim feeling of what he is saying to voters as he moves about the country. Despite the assassination attempt at Sacramento he has scheduled trips outside Washington almost every weekend throughout the rest of the year.

His talks are plain, straightforward, meat-and-potatoes stuff with few if any oratorical flourishes. It is quite repetitive and after a while I found I could anticipate much of what he said with up-datings as questioners asked about new events.

Mr. Ford is cheerful and friendly. In the introductions there is a chatty, folksy quality as he calls hosts, or questioners on TV panels, by their nicknames. It is relaxed. At a question-and-answer session at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, he overruled his aide, William J. Barovdy, and continued for another quarter hour.

The questions are generally friendly, not very penetrating, tending to generalities, "How about the economy?" and that sort of thing. They give a good forum for Mr. Ford's philosophy. The homely exchanges go out on regional radio and TV networks so there is intensive local cultivation.

Certain themes recur. There is too much regulation of business. The federal government is "not the answer to all the problems that beset individual Americans." He favors defense "second-to-none." He will obey the Supreme Court and enforce the laws. He opposes "forced busing"... I think there is a better way." He hopes a constitutional way will be found to give federal aid to nonpublic (parochial) schools.

On the economy the Ford view is driven home, and after reading 18 or 20 speeches one almost has it by heart. Yes, unemployment is serious at 8.5 percent — but since last March total U.S. employment "has increased 1,500,000 in rough figures." Yes, inflation is serious, too — but remember, when he took office "inflation was 14 percent per annum; it is down to a rate of 6 and 7 percent. We have made a lot of headway this last five months." The implication is that things are getting better and that changes in policies aren't needed.

Another theme is the need to encourage business to invest more money in plant and equipment. This should be done by tax incentives. The proposal represents a sophisticated economic theory: the idea that the state should aid corporations because corporations make jobs. "We need more investment by the American people for job creation," the President explains, "for greater productivity in our overall economy." He continues:

"I do not like the term 'capital formation.' I would rather have the American people invest in American industry to provide jobs... As our need for capital grows, the ability of industry to generate necessary funds is declining." Mr. Ford says that he is confident that Americans will support this: "We must not condemn our fellow citizens to unemployment because the modern tools needed to compete in world markets are lacking."

The President thinks his voters are affirmative, not negative. In most cases, he says, Congress comes back with scaled-down programs that mark a compromise. Here, perhaps, Mr. Ford is most emphatic. At a GOP reception in Des Moines he attacked so-called "budget busters" which Congress had been sending him, and he said he would continue to veto them: "If they stop, I stop; it is just as simple as that." (laughter)

He exempted national defense, "(The $100 billion defense money bill is the largest appropriation measure.)" I will do everything in my personal power," he told a Republican rally, "to see that Congress appropriates such funds to make sure that the United States, our country, always has a military capability second to none."

He added: "Republicans have always believed that personal initiative and private enterprise, not a meddling muscle-bound government, a federal government, are what made this nation great."

Mr. Ford regularly attacks bureaucracy, big government, and federal regulation. His eulogy of the "independent voter" is reminiscent of Mr. Nixon's appeal to the "forgotten man." "I think we have to reach out to that great majority that does the nation's work," Mr. Ford said in Minneapolis. It is evident that he feels that this is the hope of his administration and his party.
The Times' opinion and comment:

A popular President's visit

ONE of President Ford's most obvious attributes is that he likes people. And that doubtless was well up among the variety of reasons for Seattle's warm welcome today for Mr. Ford and members of his cabinet. People generally respond to the President's ease of manner even though they may not see eye to eye with him on many policy matters and individual issues.

In short, Mr. Ford as an individual is quite a popular President.

We think that is well because it bespeaks a rekindling of popular respect for the institution of the presidency, which has been taking such a shaking in the past two or three years.

Clearly, Mr. Ford has grown in stature since he was tabbed for the White House succession by Richard M. Nixon. At first he seemed a bit dazed in the handling of his inherited prerogatives and responsibilities—later getting the hang of administering the nation's executive affairs in domestic and foreign fields, now having—hopefully—found a formula with Dr. Kissinger for preserving a tenuous peace in the Middle East.

Yet Mr. Ford remains at his best in dealing with Congress, and in meeting with people as he did here today. Those attributes doubtless stem from his long service in the Congress and his successful political campaigns in Michigan where his gregarious, easy manner paid off repeatedly at the ballot boxes.

As ever, the office of the presidency requires multiple skills—a executive office manager of an increasingly complex government, talents in the weird world of international affairs, tone setter for morality in public office, and lastly, as a politician with responsibilities to his fellow partisans.

Most of Mr. Ford's excursions to Seattle today had to do with the latter. He seems to have rekindled the purse of the State Republican organization, which will restore to it some influence which had been lost (along with a similar trend in the Democratic Party) since candidates took to hogging political funds for their independent purposes.

However all that may be, Mr. Ford's visit was a welcome one—as were those of Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson during recent decades (Mr. Nixon was not a Seattle visitor during his White House tenure).

Just as elsewhere across the nation, citizens like to see their Presidents first hand, to form opinions from first-hand observations, and it is to their own interest that they restore their faith in the institution of the presidency.

We get a distinct impression that Mr. Ford is accomplishing just that in his excursions around the country—and we are happy that he counted Seattle in on his busy schedule.
Exclusive group will meet Ford here

There will be lot of bankers, administrators, directors of organizations and other managers at the meeting Ford here Thursday.

The White House says the conference is nonpolitical, "we need more articulate members than that."

consider inviting "man-on-the-street types" because meetings were free and open to anyone — "informed or not," during the

The Encyclopedia reference book.

Nowadays, White average town-hall meetings started, the gatherings started, the people than that."

The only -"The event. A 800 page...spokesman for the

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Thursday Highlights

Seattle Times, Sept. 3, 1975

Local, area media representatives ........................................ 260
Conference attendance ......................................................... 800

National coverage included mentions and wrapup-type stories on White House Conferences, nets, wires and major newspapers.

Channel 9 provided gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Conference.

The attempt on the President's life overshadowed much of the second day press activities.

TREND: National press interest appears to be on the decline; however, local and area media is receptive and welcome this "once in a lifetime" opportunity to have the White House brought to their locales.
Two shapely young ladies wearing identical red, white and blue outfits were passing out programs.

"Are you airline stewardesses or Republicans," a passerby wanted to know.

"Neither," said one of the women.

Transportation Secretary William T. Coleman sneaked into the rear of the Spanish Ballroom and slid into a chair at the second rod of press tables in an attempt to make an early anonymous entrance.

It was a mistake.

He was immediately surrounded by reporters.

Commerce Secretary Rogers Morton came late to a joint news conference where Environmental Protection Agency chief Russell Train was holding forth. Train was in the midst of answering a question. When he finished, the questioner asked Morton for his feelings on the subject.

"I'm not sure what the question was," Morton responded.

"That's not important," Train jokingly interjected. "Just give him an answer."

President Ford didn't seem to be having any trouble with the questions, though.

He appeared cool, confident and at ease as the last speaker at the conference.

Other Administration brass had preceded him on the speaker's platform and fielded dozens of questions from the audience. Ford mentioned that.

"I hope you've used up all your venom, if any on them (the previous speakers) and will be kind and considerate to me."

Comments: Seattle Conference
Program

8:30 A.M.  INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
           Ralph M. Davis, President
           Seattle Chamber of Commerce

           Wes Uhlman, Mayor of Seattle

           William J. Baroody, Jr.

9:00 A.M.  TRANSPORTATION
           Remarks/Questions & Answers
           William T. Coleman, Jr.

9:55 A.M.  INTERMISSION

10:05 A.M. THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION
           Remarks/Questions & Answers
           David Mathews

11:00 A.M. INTERMISSION

11:15 A.M. HOUSING
           Remarks/Questions & Answers
           Carla A. Hills

12:15 P.M. RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON BANQUET
           (Spanish Foyer and Ballroom)

           LUNCHEON PROGRAM:
           Master of Ceremonies -- John Hogness
           President, University of Washington

           Invocation -- Reverend Dr. Samuel B. McKinney
           Pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church

           Address -- L. William Seidman

1:30 P.M.  INTERMISSION (Reconvene Grand Ballroom)

1:40 P.M.  STATE OF THE ECONOMY
           Questions & Answers
           L. William Seidman
2:05 P.M.  INTERMISSION

2:15 P.M.  ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Remarks/Questions & Answers
Rogers C. B. Morton
Russell E. Train

3:30 P.M.  INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT
Daniel J. Evans
Governor of the State of Washington

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
Sponsoring Organizations

Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Allied Daily Newspapers
Idaho Association of Commerce
Association of Washington Business
Inland Boatman's Union of the Pacific
Municipal League of Seattle, King County
Puget Sound Chamber of Commerce
Seattle OIC
University of Washington
Washington Bankers Association
Washington Committee on Consumer Interests
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Newspapers Publishers Association
Washington State Federation of Business and Professional Women
Administration Participants

GERALD R. FORD
President of the United States

Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary of Commerce

William T. Coleman, Jr.
Secretary of Transportation

Carla A. Hills
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

David Mathews
Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare

L. William Seidman
Assistant to the President
for Economic Affairs

Russell E. Train
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison