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Q&A for American Newspaper Reception
4/13/76

That's not a phrase I would use
to describe any of my policies.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1) Always believed in
diversity.

2) Govt's obligation to make
certain all constitutional
rights are fully protected.

3) At same time each of
us, within constitutional
& legal limitations, have
inalienable rights & freedom.

ETHNIC PURITY

- Q. Can you tell us your response to Governor Carter's statements about "ethnic purity"?
- A. As the Governor himself has recognized, that was an unfortunate choice of words. Neither he nor I nor any other candidate, I believe, would use those words to describe our policies.

Basically, I believe that our ethnic heritage is one of the greatest treasures our nation has, and the powers of the government should never be misused to destroy that treasure.

At the same time, I am firmly opposed to racial discrimination against individual American citizens who are seeking to buy or rent a new home. Their rights are protected by law, and as President, I will continue to enforce our laws.

Under the law, the Federal government also has a responsibility to assist State and local governments in meeting the housing needs of their low-income citizens, as determined by those governments. That law shall also be enforced.

Over the long run, I believe that the key to improving the quality of housing for our low-income citizens is a

growing economy -- an economy that will provide better-paying jobs without devastating inflation. This is the central goal we are pursuing in this Administration, and if we stick to our policies, it is a goal that is attainable.

GERGEN
4/13/76

(Note: You may wish to be generous toward Carter with remarks such as:

As the Governor himself has fully recognized, that was an unfortunate choice of words. It really seems like a slip of the tongue made in the tension and exhaustion of a campaign. Personally, I sympathize with his view that he should be judged on his record -- not on the basis of one ill-chosen remark.

PROS: Shows a President above the battle; shows understanding where others are villifying; recognizes that most people are going to forgive him anyway.

CONS: Might ease Carter's problem in winning Pennsylvania and beating HHH; might insert GRF too far into controversy.)

GERGEN
4/13/76