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*File -
Abortion*

July 13, 1976



TO: Mrs. Ford

FROM: Sheila

RE: JULY 1 SUPREME COURT DECISION ON ABORTION

1. The Court ruled that a State may define "viability" as "the stage of fetal development when the life of the unborn child may be continued indefinitely outside the womb by natural or artificial life-supportive systems."

But the Court ruled the actual time of viability should be the judgment of the attending physician and should not be fixed by State law.

2. States may require a woman's written consent before the abortion to say her consent is "informed and freely given and is not the result of coercion."
3. The State may not constitutionally require the consent of the husband as a condition of abortion during the first 12 weeks of the pregnancy. (This is the period during which the State cannot regulate or prevent an abortion, and the decision is solely between the woman and her doctor.) The Court said that if the State cannot intervene, then neither can the husband.

The Court said that although it recognized the importance of the marital relationship and the possible impact of an abortion upon a marriage, the State still did not have the constitutional authority to give the husband the ability to stop the wife from having an abortion.

4. The Court also said the State may not require the consent or a parent or a person acting as parent as a condition of an abortion for an unmarried minor during the first 12 weeks of her pregnancy. The legal logic was the same as for a husband: the State cannot grant to a third party an arbitrary veto of an abortion during the first 12 weeks, when it lacks that authority itself.

But it left open this door: "we emphasize our holding does not suggest every minor, regardless of age or maturity may give effective consent for termination of her pregnancy."

5. The court ruled the State cannot bar the use of saline amniocentesis as a method of abortion after the first 12 weeks. Testimony showed this method to be more safe for the mother than even continuation of the pregnancy until normal childbirth.
6. The Court said States may require records for health facilities and physicians concerned with abortions. All such information shall be confidential and used for statistical purposes.
7. The Court rules States may not require doctors performing abortions to try as hard to save a fetus during an abortion as would be required to preserve the life of a fetus intended to be born alive.

SUMMARY OF MASSACHUSETTS CASE

1. The State cannot control an abortion of a minor during the first twelve weeks of a pregnancy any more than it can control that of an adult. The rights of a minor outweigh the competing rights of the minor's parents and must be protected.

#

SEAL OF SENATOR
SEAN P. FORD
MASSACHUSETTS
JAN 10 1984

Traditionally, American every indication that Senate ambassadors to London have Republicans would join in been wealthy men because confirming his nomination.

The Evening Bulletin *Thurs. Sept. 5 '74*
White House Explains

Mrs. Ford's Abortion View

Washington — (UPI)—Mrs. Betty Ford believes in therapeutic abortion in cases of rape and incest, but opposes

ence, Mrs. Ford also said she would campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment for women.

They can play a great role."

Asked whether her son Jack, 22, was right when he told a news conference that

names Scranton has drawn up in the cabinet and other high-level positions.

Washington—(AP) — Presi-

President."

With emotion, she added, "I don't expect to live up to those who came before me.

of NATO armed forces.

Mr. Ford named George Bush as the new head of the U. S. mission in Peking, ending his 21-month term as Republican national chairman.

Appointed ambassador to France was Kenneth Rush who served as Mr. Nixon's economic policy coordinator.

"This certainly is not a question of Ford trying to show he is in command of foreign policy by these appointments," a State Department source said. "These are not his people."

The evident exception was

Abortion

ABORTION

Mrs. Ford feels abortion is certainly justified, but she definitely is not for abortion on demand.

Washington Post - September 6, 1974
(Abortion)

On abortions generally, Mrs. Ford feels that individual cases should be considered under the control of a panel of doctors plus a psychiatrist in the hospital.

Washington Post - September 6, 1974
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Mrs. Ford's concern and the President's concern are essentially that there must be a remedy for persons when abortions become necessary because of serious illness or criminal attack of some kind.

Washington Post - September 6, 1974 (Abortion)
US News & World Report - Oct 7, 1974 (Politics)
Mr. terHorst - Sep 5, 1974 (Abortion)

Mrs. Ford said that she was "definitely closer" to Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller's position (supports legalized abortion on demand up to the 24th week of pregnancy) than to that of Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons.-R-NY) (opposes abortion except when a woman's life is in danger).

Washington Post - Sep 5&6, 1974 (Abortion)
The Evening Bulletin - Sep 5, 1974 (Abortion)
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The Evening Bulletin - Sep 5, 1974
(Abortion)

She recently told an interviewer that despite reaction to her pro-abortion statement in 1973, "I couldn't lie. That's the way I feel."

Washington Post - Sep 5, 1974 (Abortion)

Q: What is your view on the Supreme Court's decision yesterday on abortion?

A: I know only what I have read in the papers and I don't know exactly what it means yet. There is much discussion right now on how to interpret their decision. I am sure that the Court gave the subject a great deal of thought and that reaching a decision must have been very difficult.



ABORTION

On abortions generally, Mrs. Ford feels that individual cases should be considered under the control of a panel of doctors plus a psychiatrist in the hospital.

9/6/74

Washington Post

ABORTION

"I'm glad abortion has been taken out of the back ~~rooms~~ and put into the hospitals, where it belongs."

5/74 --Good Housekeeping

10/7/74 --US News and World Report



ABORTION

"I feel very strongly that it was the best thing in the world when the Supreme Court voted to legalize abortion, and in my words, bring it out of the backwoods and put it in the hospitals where it belonged. I thought it was a great, great decision."

8/10/75

CBS--60 Minutes--Morley Safer

ABORTION

"It's an extremely personal and sensitive subject, but I believe it (abortion) may be better for those teenage girls who otherwise may end up having to marry boys they don't really care for or who aren't suited to them."

10/74

McCalls

ABORTION

"That (abortion) is a matter of the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court is the law of our land. As long as it is the law of the land, I abide by the law of the land."

10/7/74

US News and World Report

ABORTION

Mrs. Ford's concern and the President's concerns are essentially that there must be a remedy for persons when abortions become necessary because of serious illness or criminal attack of some kind.

9/6/74 -- Washington Post

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9/5-6/74 -- Washington Post

9/5/74-- The Evening Bulletin

9/5/74 -- Mr. ter Horst

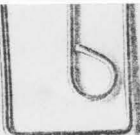
ABORTION

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9/6/74

Washington Post





ELAINE R. CRANE

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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May 21, 1976

Letter to the Editor
Cleveland Plain Dealer
1801 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Sir:

I read with interest the letter from Judith Carol of Parma, Ohio regarding Mrs. Ford. I find it strange that she feels it appropriate to criticize our First Lady for her "silence" in light of the fact that in the past six months Mrs. Ford in her spare waking hours, when not performing the functions in Washington, D.C. of First Lady, has made herself available to the public by campaigning actively for the President in all primary states, and in speaking out candidly and forthrightly on all the issues.

In all of Mrs. Ford's comments, however, I do not believe that she has promoted abortion, but indeed has set forth her belief, and that of many of us, that the question of abortion is a deep and personal decision which a woman and her doctors, after consultation with others, must determine according to her own conscience, and not in a court of law. I have never heard Mrs. Ford advocate abortion, but only that the law should be such that this purely personal, moral and deeply religious decision should be made only after deep thought.

As far as her advocacy of the Equal Rights Amendment, the State of Ohio has ratified that amendment and I believe a substantial number of persons in the state are in favor of it. It is true that Mrs. Ford has on several occasions indicated her trust in the Equal Rights Amendment, and has met with the two heads of ERA America (the national organization for the passage of ERA), Mrs. Ellie Peterson and Mrs. Liz Carpenter.

I for one feel that our nation is fortunate in having such an articulate and involved First Lady and feel that the letter recently published in your paper was not quite fair.

Yours very truly,

Elaine R. Crane

Elaine R. Crane



bcc Sheila Weiden

ELAINE R. CRANE

ATTORNEY AT LAW

800 NATIONAL CITY BANK BLDG.

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114



Ms. Sheila Weiden
Office of Betty Ford
White House
Washington, D.C.

FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS

and SUNSHINE

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Editorial Page Six

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1975

IT'S OUR OPINION

Parents' Values Often Not Shared By Their Children

BETTY FORD must realize by now that freedom loving Americans listen and read with comprehension colored by prejudice.

She must also realize that a good interviewer by his warmth and compassion can overcome the distractions of lights, camera, pad and pencil to lull the interviewee into feeling she is having a heart-to-heart talk with a friend — a friend who listens with his heart and eyes as well as his ears.

But many American viewers and news reporters did not listen carefully to what Mrs. Ford was saying. Many interpreted her remarks against the background of their own attitudes and moral stands.

Many mothers sitting in Mrs. Ford's chair, if asked, "What would you do if your daughter came and told you she was having an affair?" might have answered, "If my daughter were having an affair she wouldn't dare come home and tell me."

This mother, too, would be telling her truth. But she would not be preventing her daughter from having an affair.

Many parents today are heartbroken over their children's rejection of family values. This heartbreak does not change the children's attitudes. But sometimes it creates a family break that becomes irreparable.

The Ford family has always been close. We can be sure morality has been one of the subjects they have discussed. We can also be sure that the two generations have not always been in complete agreement on the fitness of things.

They are also widely read. It is common knowledge today that many young people elect to live together before marriage. It is a free choice, or a peer pressure choice that young people make without consulting their

UP-150

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"AND IF HE LETS ME GO AROUND THE COUNTRY SAYING WHATEVER I CHOOSE, YOU KNOW HE IS NOT TELLING ME WHAT TO SAY, AND WE DON'T ALWAYS AGREE."

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UPI 04-30 07:11 PED



GREENFIELD A. RECORDER

Family

Greenfield (Mass.) Recorder, Monday, August 18, 1975—15

The People Report

Mrs. Ford misinterpreted

By WALENTYNA POMASKO
Recorder Staff

Whether or not one believes in premarital sex, marijuana smoking, or abortion seems not to be the question in the wake of Mrs. Betty Ford's controversial interview last week on CBS-TV's "60 Minutes."

Morley Safer's interview with Mrs. Ford dealt with a variety of contemporary issues; what effect being married to a politician has on her and her children, her very open and public experience with mastectomy

SPECTRUM

Varying shades of personal opinion on current issues

NICK THIMMESCH
CBS RADIO NETWORK
SEPTEMBER 16, 1974
MONDAY

I'm Nick Thimmesch.

When the thunderstorm, generated by President Ford through his pardon of Richard Nixon, finally passes, it won't be the last. The economy obviously will continue as the relentless wind which Mr. Ford will have to still. I don't want to bring him any other bad news, but there is another front abuilding -- the abortion issue.

There is so much sentiment expressed to Congress on this question, that it has become the Number One subject in the mail received on Capitol Hill. Pro-abortion groups claim that Right-to-Lifers and other anti-abortion organizations programmed this huge mail, but that's not exactly true. For some reason, this issue hits hard, like civil rights did in the 60s, like anti-war protests and radicalism did during the Vietnam period, like busing still does. Abortion is the powerful sleeper issue in American politics.

Mr. Ford's Administration unwittingly became caught up in this controversy. It was Mrs. Betty Ford who declared that she was "definitely closer" to Nelson A. Rockefeller's pro-abortion position than she was, say that of New York Senator James Buckley. Rockefeller's name is mud to the Right-to-Life crowd which knows his clear cut pro-abortion record. Buckley, on the other hand, co-authored a constitutional amendment which would all but prohibit abortion by giving legal status to the fetus and thus protection under the Fourteenth Amendment.

Anyway, that put Mrs. Ford in a jam. The White House tried to extricate her by stating that she and the President weren't really that far apart on the issue. Mrs. Ford, it was explained, didn't believe in abortion on demand, though she felt it was justified in cases involving serious illness or criminal attack.

It was also explained that Mrs. Ford thought abortion was a matter a panel of doctors could decide. Since such panels often allow abortion on demand, this buck-passing statement put Mrs. Ford back right where she started.

On top of that, there is Nelson Rockefeller, waiting to be confirmed as Vice President. And on top of that, there's President Ford's Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Mrs. Mary Louise Smith. She believes abortion is a matter between a woman and her doctor -- again, abortion on demand.

As for President Ford, he seems to be against abortion. He was appalled with the 1973 Supreme Court decision, and favors an amendment turning the issue back to the states.

It's a tribute to people's instincts to realize that, despite the welter of pro-abortion material dispensed in the media, this issue is alive and kicking. Nations which indulge in abortion binges eventually regretted it. The American people, using common sense, are telling Congress that abortion isn't a very nice activity at all.

I'm Nick Thimmesch for Spectrum.



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

August 5, 1974

Mr. J. P. McFadden
Chairman
The Ad Hoc Committee in Defense of Life
P. O. Box 574
Murray Hill Station
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. McFadden:

Thank you very much for your recent communication on the proposed Human Life Amendments to the U. S. Constitution. I believe it would be desirable to amend the Constitution in order to change the 1973 Supreme Court decision on this matter.

While Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, I cosponsored an amendment which would restore to the citizens of each State the power to regulate abortions. I strongly support such an amendment. I appreciate your taking the time to write me on this important subject.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford
Gerald R. Ford

GRF:irh



National Women's Political Caucus

VOL.V NO.1
JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1976

newsletter

1921 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 785-2911

"WIN WITH WOMEN '76" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

On February 2 the National Women's Political Caucus launched "Win With Women '76," a multi-partisan, nationwide campaign to elect more women to office at every level of government. The program was announced at a Capitol Hill Press Conference.

Pledging a dramatic upswing in the number of women running and winning for the Senate, U.S. House, State Legislatures and town councils, NWPC National Chairwoman

Jan. 7 Feb. 1976

3

ABORTION STATEMENT DRAWS CRITICISM

President Ford's attempt to take a middle-of-the-road position in his February 3 statement on abortion drew immediate criticism from the NWPC and other pro-choice groups.

In a recent television interview, Ford said he feels the Supreme Court went "too far" when it gave women an

FEC DECISION TO HURT WOMEN CANDIDATES

The recent Supreme Court decision that overturned much of the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974 has made it harder for women to win elections and easier for millionaires to dominate



By Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

Betty Ford speaking during her press conference in the White House.

SEP 05 1974
**Pro-Abortion
Stand Taken
By Mrs. Ford**

By Donnie Radcliffe

Washington Post Staff Writer

In her first full-scale press conference since her husband became President, Betty Ford yesterday followed his lead in a candid briefing that included a pro-abortion stand.

Her 25-minute appearance, unusual for recent First Ladies, drew nearly 150 men and women reporters and photographers to the State Dining Room at the White House.

She fielded questions easily, including one on whether she was closer to the pro-abortion position of former New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, now Vice President-designate, or to that of anti-abortion advocate Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons.-R-N.Y.).

Moving forward from a previously stated stand in which she favored abortion under certain circumstances—for unwed teen-agers—she said she was “definitely closer” to Rockefeller who as New York’s governor in 1972 vetoed a bill that would have repealed that state’s liberal abortion law.

Passed in 1970 by a one-vote margin, the New York law provides for abortion on demand up to the 24th week of pregnancy.

Buckley introduced a constitutional amendment in 1973 that would overturn the Supreme Court’s ruling on abortions and would outlaw them except when a woman’s life is endangered.

Mrs. Ford’s stand could provoke reaction from the highly vocal Right to Life and Catholic forces opposing liberalized abortion laws. But it is a risk of which she apparently is aware.

She recently told an interviewer that despite reaction to her pro-abortion statement in

See FORD, A6, Col. 1



Full Abortion

July 13, 1976

TO: Mrs. Ford

FROM: Sheila

RE: JULY 1 SUPREME COURT DECISION ON ABORTION

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UPI 04-30 07:11 PED



CBS NEWS

HOLD FOR RELEASE
6 P.M. SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

"60 MINUTES"

"THE FIRST LADY"

SUNDAY, AUG. 10, 1975

9:30-10:30 P.M., EDT

ON THE CBS TELEVISION NETWORK

A CONVERSATION WITH BETTY FORD

WITH

CBS NEWS CORRESPONDENT MORLEY SAFER



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60 MINUTES

"THE FIRST LADY"

MRS. FORD:

I told my husband if we have to go to the White House, "Okay, I will go. But I'm going as myself. And it's too late to change my pattern. And if they don't like it, then they'll just have to throw me out."

SAFER:

Washington can be an awfully tough town on a political wife. Would you agree?

MRS. FORD:

Well, I agree. But you see, I had twenty-six years of experience as the wife of a Congressman. And I did learn a little bit in that twenty-six years. You know, I wasn't sitting around being a dummy.

SAFER:

One ex-wife, the ex-wife of a Congressman said, "He'll do anything for his country, his party and his family in that order."

MRS. FORD:

Well, I think a Congressional wife has to be a special kind of woman. I don't think that all women, really, can adjust to this type of life.

SAFER:

But would you advise your daughter, for example, to marry a politician given the years you've been through it in Washington?

MRS. FORD:

That's a hard question.

MR. TER HORST: Well, I would think this is an area they would want to be concerned about, knowing the President's concern, and I am certain that, if the President's concern is not known to them, it will become obvious to them.

Q May I ask you one other question?

MR. TER HORST: Yes.

Q What is the President's view on abortion?

MR. TER HORST: The President's long held position as a Member of Congress and as Vice President and as President is that this is a matter which should be elective for the States to decide and he personally has favored in Congress a constitutional amendment to that effect.

Q You mean to overturn the Supreme Court ruling?

MR. TER HORST: Yes.

Q Does he still favor it?

MR. TER HORST: He still holds to that position.

Q What did you think about Mrs. Ford's position on this topic yesterday?

MR. TER HORST: Well, as you know, I have read the transcript, as you all have, and as I recall, Mrs. Ford was asked a question whether her position was closer to Governor Rockefeller's or that of Senator Buckley and she said definitely Governor Rockefeller's.

Mrs. Ford's concern and the President's concern is essentially that there must be a remedy for persons where abortion becomes necessary because of serious illness, or a case of a criminal attack of some kind. Those are obviously primary concerns.

Q Jerry, then if Louisiana had a law which forbade abortion for any reason, like rape, incest, or grave threat, if Louisiana passed a law, does he feel that Louisiana should be able to prohibit abortions for anything, is that what you mean?

MR. TER HORST: What I am saying is that the President's position is as I have stated, that the President favors a constitutional amendment permitting the States to enact legislation in this field. So he is leaving it up to the States.

The President does not favor Federal legislation on the subject of abortion, obviously.

Q How does he feel about abortion per se, I mean the question of abortion on demand?

MR. TER HORST: The President, in 1972, I recall, opposed the idea of a Michigan referendum on the subject of abortion on demand.

Q Jerry, did the President take a position on the Buckley amendment or on the Helms amendment or the Hogan amendment?

MR. TER HORST: I can't recall specifically. He might have, but I can't recall specifically.

Q Jerry, what is the status of the meetings between Justice, Defense and the President on amnesty and with the Pittsburgh speech, can we expect the amnesty statement out Tuesday?

MR. TER HORST: The President still has not finished what he wants to do on the subject of announcing an amnesty program. That is still in process and, as I mentioned, it probably cannot come this week because of the time schedule. Monday looks like a difficult day and I would ON BACKGROUND suggest you think about Tuesday for that.

Q Can you suggest a forum maybe in which that announcement may be made?

MR. TER HORST: I cannot.

Q Back to abortion for a minute. In answer to a question as to the President's position on abortion on demand, you said he opposed a Michigan referendum on abortion in 1972. That doesn't tell me anything unless I know what that referendum was.

MR. TER HORST: It was for abortion on demand. I said he opposed a referendum on the question of abortion on demand.

Q Would that have permitted abortion on demand?

MR. TER HORST: Yes.

Q Would you say his views are closer to Rockefeller's or Buckley's?

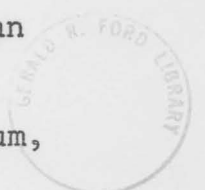
MR. TER HORST: I think, since the President is going to have a news conference before too long again, it would be a perfect question for you to bring up, and you can get the answer first hand.

Q Your 1972 reference, Jerry, on the referendum, you are implying his position is still the same today?

MR. TER HORST: I have detected no change.

MORE

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(ABORTION)

(BY CHERYL ARVIDSON)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROHIBITING ABORTION WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE WOMEN'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EQUALITY, TWO WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS SAID TODAY.

AUDREY ROWE COLOM, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS, AND BETTY FRIEDAN, A FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN, TESTIFIED BEFORE SEN. BIRCH BAYH'S JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS IN THE FINAL STAGE OF HEARINGS ON TWO AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD OVERTURN THE SUPREME COURT'S HISTORIC DECISION LEGALIZING ABORTION ON DEMAND. ONE WOULD GRANT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS TO A FETUS, THE SECOND WOULD BAN ABORTIONS EXCEPT IF THE MOTHER'S LIFE IS ENDANGERED.

UNLESS WOMEN HAVE CONTROL OVER THEIR REPRODUCTIVE LIVES, THEY CANNOT SEEK A HIGHER EDUCATION, GAIN TOOLS AND TRAINING TO SECURE AND HOLD EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE THE HOME AND MAKE GAINS IN THE NATION'S POLITICAL SYSTEM, FRIEDAN SAID.

"NO WOMAN WANTS TO HAVE AN ABORTION," COLOM SAID. "NO WOMAN UNDERGOES SURGERY WITH THE ACCOMPANYING DISCOMFORT UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO HER. SHE DOES IT ONLY BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE OF BRINGING A CHILD INTO THE WORLD SHE KNOWS SHE CANNOT SUPPORT OR NUTURE IS SO MUCH MORE FRIGHTENING AND DISCOMFORTING THAT IT LEAVES HER NO ALTERNATIVE."

SEN. THOMAS EAGLETON, D-MO., SUPPORTED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, SAYING LIFE "IS A CONTINUUM, FROM FIRST BEGINNINGS IN THE WOMB TO THE FINAL GASP OF DYING, AND THE FIRST FUNCTION OF SOCIETY, THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT IS TO PROTECT LIFE..."

EAGLETON URGED THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION "IN THE BROADEST POSSIBLE TERMS TO PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF LIFE THROUGHOUT ITS FULL SPECTRUM FROM WOMB TO TOMB. I WOULD PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AGAINST ABORTION, INFANTICIDE, EUTHANASIA -- AND THE IMPOSITION OF DEATH AS A PUNISHMENT."

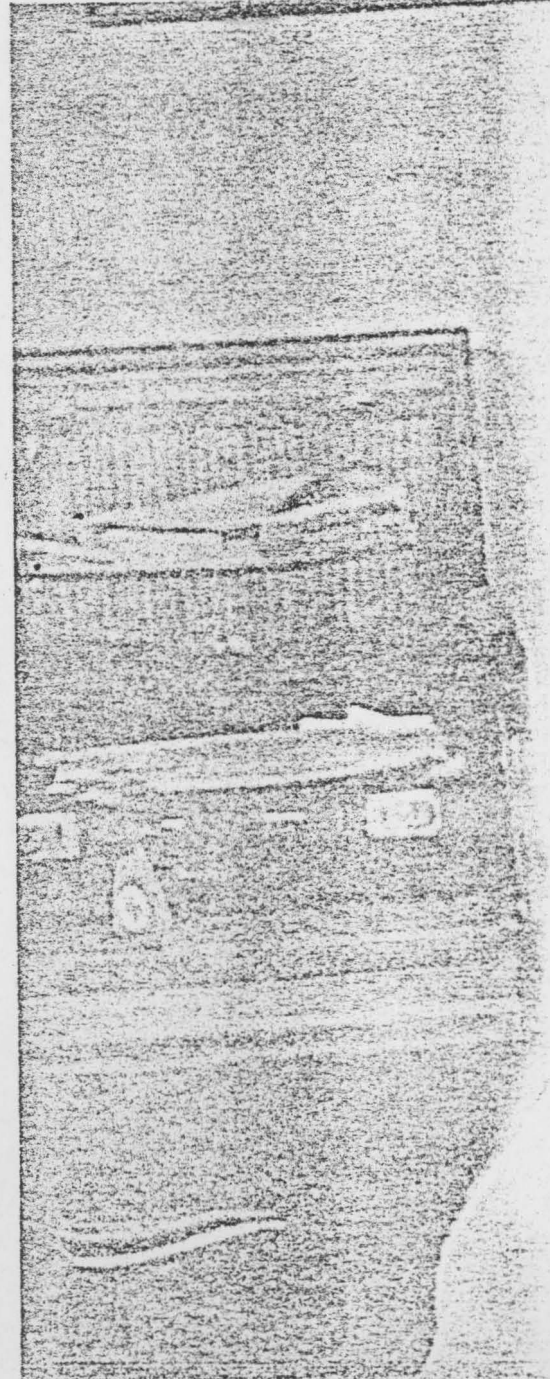
The Betty Ford Nobody Knows

BY JEAN LIBMAN BLOCK

It's taken years of pain and months of psychotherapy
for the woman who could become First Lady to learn that a
wife can be *too* self-sacrificing

Good Housekeeping May 1974

Photos: Harry Benson



What happens to an intelligent, attractive, devoted mother of four, who was once a dancer, a model and a fashion coordinator, when her husband suddenly becomes Vice President of the United States—and could just as suddenly become President? Ask Betty Ford, born Elizabeth Bloomer 55 years ago in Grand Rapids, Mich. She has reason to know.

Right after 60-year-old Gerald Rudolph Ford was sworn in as the 40th Vice President last December, the Secret Service swooped down on the family's four-bedroom, red brick and clapboard house in suburban Alexandria, Va., installed new high-security locks and kept the

keys. Now when Betty Ford wants to enter her front or back door, a Secret Service agent jumps to unlock it for her.

The symbolism is inescapable. For in multiple ways, as this country's Second Lady and facing from day to day the possibility of becoming its First Lady, Betty Ford finds herself suddenly thrust into the public eye, in a role she'd never dream of choosing for herself—without keys to her own home.

But at least she kept that home. Betty, her husband, son Michael, 23 (a theology student in Massachusetts), John, 21 (studying forestry at Utah State University), Steven, 17 (a public high school senior), and Susan, 16 (at a nearby boarding school weekdays but home on weekends), voted unanimously to resist all pressures to move to grander

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Betty Ford, who's not always found it easy to be a politician's wife, relaxes with the Vice President (below) in their Alexandria, Va., home. (Opposite, top) Betty with daughter Susan, 16; (bottom) her husband with Steve, 17.

