The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “Ford, Betty - Abortion” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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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.
Mrs. Ford

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.

#  #  #
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 abortion on demand, her chief spokesman, Helen McCain Smith, said today.

Mrs. Ford was asked at her news conference whether her views on abortion were close to Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller, who as governor of New York supported legalized abortion up to the 24th week of pregnancy, or the stand of Sen. James L. Buckley (Ind-NY), who takes a strong stand against abortion.

She replied that she was “definitely closer” to Rockefeller’s position.

During her news conference, Mrs. Ford also said she would campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment for women.

She refused to commit herself on whether she would like her husband to run for a full term in 1976. When asked if she would campaign then, she replied “I’ll be happy to campaign — and for governor!”

She said the President used to kid her about “equal rights” for women but now has become a strong advocate of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Asked what women can do to stop future wars, she quipped: “They can always enlist.” Then more seriously she replied, “by becoming very active in politics — which I always encourage. They can play a great role.”

Mrs. Ford also said she was surprised by the news that Mr. Ford would probably run for the presidency.

She responded, “I was very surprised at my son’s statement. Two years is quite a long way. I wouldn’t want to commit myself.”

Mrs. Ford said her son’s “not to take a politically active part in politics as far as issues are concerned” but that campaigning “is nothing new to me” and she expects to do more.

As to her own mark on the White House, she said, “I would like to be remembered in a kind way ... also as a very constructive wife of the President.”

With emotion, she added, “I don’t expect to live up to those who came before me. They’ve all done a great job. I hope I can come close to it.”

Mrs. Ford said she would seek to promote the arts and help mentally retarded children. She also said most of her campaigns would be at Vail, Colo., where the Fords own a condominium.

Mrs. Ford said she believes that families have to watch their budgets and their checkbooks and if in her own family “We have had to make an adjustment. At least in our family, we don’t eat as much steak or roast beef — as much as the boys would like.”

Although there is some reported resentment within NATO to Haig as supreme commander, the problem centers on his association with the Watergate aftermath, not to his military qualifications.

The Dutch government today denied reports it would oppose Haig’s nomination for the NATO post.
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
(Abortion)

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)
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)
Mr. terHorst - Sep 5, 1974 (Abortion)

Mrs. Betty Ford believes in therapeutic abortion in cases of rape and incest, but opposes abortion on demand.
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 -- U.S. 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 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.

9/6/74 -- Washington Post
9/5/74 -- Mr. ter Horst
10/7/74 -- US News and World Report
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9/5/74 -- The Evening Bulletin

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9/5/74 00 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

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

9/6/74
Washington Post
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 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

[Signature]

cc: Sheila Weiden
Ms. Sheila Weiden
Office of Betty Ford
White House
Washington, D.C.
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 pull 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 stances:

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 attitude. 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
BETTY FORD FRIDAY DEFENDED HER HUSBAND AGAINST A CHARGE THAT HE HAS NO WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING ROLES IN HIS ADMINISTRATION OR CAMPAIGN. SHE SAID HE HAS MANY, INCLUDING HERSELF, THE FIRST LADY, CAMPAIGNING FOR PRESIDENT FORD IN NEXT TUESDAY'S INDIANA PRIMARY. SHE HELD AN IMPROMPTU NEWS CONFERENCE ON THE INDIANAPOLIS CITY MARKET STEPS.

A REPORTER ASKED ABOUT A CHARGE BY A WOMAN CRITIC THAT FORD HAS NO WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS.

"WELL, SHE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ME," MRS. FORD SAID. "THERE ARE WOMEN, VERY DEFINITELY IN HIS CAMPAIGN AND SEVERAL WOMEN AMBASSADORS AND A WOMAN IN THE CABINET."

"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."

MRS. FORD TOOK A WALKING TOUR THROUGH DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS, SHAKING HANDS WITH HUNDREDS OF PERSONS AMONG THE THOUSANDS WHO LINED HER ROUTE BETWEEN MONUMENT CIRCLE AND THE CITY MARKET.

MRS. FORD WAS GREETED ALONG THE ROUTE BY CHEERS AND SOME REFERENCES TO HER "FIRST MAMA" CITIZENS BAND RADIO HANDLE.

ASKED IF SHE WOULD CHANGE HER POSITION ON ABORTION IF THE ANTI-ABORTION CAMPAIGN OF ELLEN MCCORMACK WERE TO GAIN A SIZEABLE VOTE, MRS. FORD ANSWERED:

"MY POSITION ON ABORTION IS THAT IT IS THE CHOICE OF THE PERSON HERSELF AND I DON'T SEE MYSELF CHANGING. I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT ABORTION HAS BEEN BROUGHT OUT OF THE BACKWOODS AND INTO THE HOSPITALS SO WE DON'T HAVE SO MANY DEATHS WHICH WE HAD BEFORE."

UPI 04-30 07:11 PFD
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 (breast removal), whether she believes her husband to be faithful despite the "attractions" of the nation's capital; and other issues.

Her manner during the interview was calm, self-assured and charming. She never indicated once that she personally supported premarital affairs, smoking marijuana, or having an abortion. She agreed they are contemporary issues and because she has children who are at an age to face these issues, she would not be shocked by open discussion of them and would want to be in a position to advise her children.

She never said she would advise having an abortion but that because it is a reality, but that it is an issue to be dealt with in a hospital rather than "in the back woods."

Her willingness to discuss issues openly that had appeared in the press, television, school literature, on the pulpit, in private living rooms for at least the past 10 years, earned her a label by the media as personally advocating these actions.

Mrs. Ford did comment during the interview that because of her experience with breast cancer and her policy of maximum publicity to the health problem, more women were made aware of it, and sought methods of early detection and treatment, perhaps saving many lives.

Her open discussion at the time she was operated on for breast cancer was a breakthrough. At that point, breast cancer was not discussed in polite company.

Despite the recent furor caused by her television interview and resulting newspaper articles and headlines, it would seem that other mothers of her generation may also be willing to at least face the issues if they become a factor in communicating with their children.

Marion Malonson, president of the Washington state chapter of Church Women United said, "I'm happy to at least see her mention such things and talk about them. They too often get ignored and hushed up."

As of Thursday, comments continued to pour into the White House, according to an AP story. Mrs. Ford's press secretary said sentiment in about 500 telegrams and telephone calls was about even.
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 dispersed 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 diverse opinions expressed on SPECTRUM are those of the commentators themselves and should not be attributed to CBS or any of its affiliates. Produced under the supervision of CBS News, 524 West 57 Street, New York, New York 10019.
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

GRF:irh
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.

"Win With Women '76" is 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. Women candidates are no longer rare exceptions. In 1974, during our pioneer 'Win With Women' campaign, we chalked up significant gains in the numbers of female candidates. More than 1800 women ran for offices from State Legislature to House of Representatives and countless others vied for county and municipal offices. There was a net gain of 148 women in state legislatures and six new Congresswomen were elected. We expect to do even better in '76."

A major thrust of "Win With Women '76" will be to elect pro-ERA women to legislatures in states that either have not yet ratified the Equal Rights Amendment or are faced with rescission attempts.

"Win With Women '76" will provide technical assistance to women candidates including: "how-to" campaign materials, in depth position papers concerning issues of critical importance to women (available to male candidates also), consultant services on specific aspects of campaigning, acting as a liaison with groups which support candidates.

A national media committee will focus attention on races involving women. In addition, NWPC's 30,000 members are encouraged to become candidates themselves or work in other women's campaigns. According to Colom, news of new women announcing their candidacies arrives daily at the Caucus office.

Congresswoman Pat Schroeder (Dem-CO) represented the women members currently in Congress. "Women are rapidly becoming more aware of their roles both as politicians and within the political structure," according to Rep. Schroeder. "It's an exciting process of discovery for many women—and it's irreversible," she added.

Congressional candidates from thirteen states joined Colom and Schroeder at the press conference representing those women from every state who will be seeking office this year. Included was State Senator Jeannette Reibman (Dem-PA), candidate for U.S.
Senate. Reibman is the only woman in her state's history to win a full term in the State Senate and was recently elected to her third term on both Democratic and Republican tickets. A blizzard grounded Rep. Bella Abzug (Dem-NY). However Bella, a projected challenger to Senate incumbent, James Buckley, phoned remarks outlining the extreme financial difficulties women face running for public office. The late January Supreme Court decision to lift limitations on campaign contributions "presents a new obstacle to us in 1976, our bicentennial," she noted.

Congressional candidates expressed concern about the economy as it affects specialized needs in their districts. Explaining the results of inflation and unemployment on her urban Maryland District, Baltimore City Councilwoman Barbara Mikulski (Dem) asserted, "The Nixon-Agnew-Ford economic policies have had all the foresight, knowledge and concern of lighting a cigar on the Hindenburg." "We also said we would support a constitutional amendment that would give states the right to enact their own abortion legislation at any term of pregnancy.

The following day NWPC sent a telegram to Ford reaffirming its support for the 1973 Supreme Court decision and expressing dismay that "you who also claim to favor individual liberty do not follow that policy with regard to women." The telegram, signed by NWPC National Chairwoman Audrey Rowe Colom, stated further that his position on abortion is "clearly regressive." Getty Ford also released a statement the following day reaffirming her support for the Supreme Court decision despite the President's views.

"I'm glad to see that abortion has been put in the back woods and been put in the hospitals where it belongs," she said.

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 unrestricted right to abortion during the first three months of pregnancy. He also said he would support a constitutional amendment that would give states the right to enact their own abortion legislation at any term of pregnancy.

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"I'm glad to see that abortion has been put in the back woods and been put in the hospitals where it belongs," she said.

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 the electoral scene, according to Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY).

In a statement released February 2 at the "Win With Women '76" press conference, Rep. Abzug explained why the decision that scrapped many limitations on campaign contributions affect women candidates adversely.

"Women in politics are notoriously poor and find it much tougher than men to raise money," she said, "The Supreme Court decision presents a new obstacle to us in 1976.

"We cannot let the power of money keep us out of office," she continued. "We will have to work harder and try harder, but I hope that our 'Win With Women' campaign will succeed this year in breaking the male monopoly in the Senate."

Rep. Abzug in a projected candidate against millionaire Buckley (I-NY) brought the court suit that resulted in the overturning of the FEC contribution limitations.

ANTI-ABORTION CANDIDATE CHARGED WITH DECEPTIVE PRACTICES

The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) charged anti-abortion presidential candidate Elleng McCormack with using deceptive practices in soliciting funds and violating federal election laws in a complaint to the Federal Elections Commission. At a February 17 Capitol Hill press conference, NARAL President Sarah Weddington said McCormack should be ineligible for federal matching funds. The single-issue candidate running on the Democratic ticket announced recently she expects to meet the minimum requirements of $5,000 worth of contributions in 20 states to receive the matching funds. NARAL contends many donors did not realize they were contributing to a campaign.

"Her candidacy and campaign techniques demonstrate a pattern to deceive potential contributors by failing to disclose without ambiguity that she is soliciting funds for her presidential candidacy and not for the anti-choice movement," said Weddington.

The pro-abortion group emphasized that any citizen has the First Amendment right to run for the presidency, wage a single-issue campaign and advocate a position on a single issue through the media.

"We believe, however, that her deceptive practices...are sufficiently pervasive that her campaign has made a mockery of the 1976 amendments to the Federal Elections Campaign Act," Weddington asserted.
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 (Conn.-R.N.Y.).

Moving forward from a previously stated stand in which she favored abortion under certain circumstances—for unwed teenagers—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 42 weeks 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
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.

#  #  #
INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) -- Betty Ford Friday defended her husband against a charge that he has no women in decision-making roles in his administration or campaign. She said he has many, including herself, the first lady, campaigning for President Ford in next Tuesday's Indiana primary, held an impromptu news conference on the Indianapolis city market steps.

A reporter asked about a charge by a woman critic that Ford has no women in decision-making positions. "Well, she didn't know about me," Mrs. Ford said. "There are women, very definitely in his campaign and several women ambassadors and a woman in the cabinet.

"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."

Mrs. Ford took a walking tour through downtown Indianapolis, shaking hands with hundreds of persons among the thousands who lined her route between Monument Circle and the city market. Mrs. Ford was greeted along the route by cheers and some references to her "first name" citizens band radio handle.

Asked if she would change her position on abortion if the anti-abortion campaign of Ellen McCormack were to gain a sizeable vote, Mrs. Ford answered:

"My position on abortion is that it is the choice of the person herself and I don't see myself changing. I think it is very important abortion has been brought out of the backwoods and into the hospitals so we don't have so many deaths which we had before."

UPI 04-30 07:11 PGT
"60 MINUTES"
"THE FIRST LADY"

SUNDAY, AUG. 10, 1975
9:30-10:30 P.M., EST
ON THE CBS TELEVISION NETWORK

A CONVERSATION WITH BETTY FORD
WITH
CBS NEWS CORRESPONDENT MORLEY SAFTER

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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."

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

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.

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."

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.

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

That's a hard question.
MR. TERHORST: 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. TERHORST: Yes.

Q What is the President's view on abortion?

MR. TERHORST: 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. TERHORST: Yes.

Q Does he still favor it?

MR. TERHORST: He still holds to that position.

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

MR. TERHORST: 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. TERHORST: 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?

MORE
MR. TER HORDST: 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 HORDST: 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 HORDST: 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 HORDST: 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 HORDST: 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 HORDST: Yes.

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

MR. TER HORDST: 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 HORDST: I have detected no change.

MORE
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 NURTURE 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."

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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.

Ford Homemaking May 1974
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 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.

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...continued on page 138