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Mrs. Ford, Officials Avoid Politics

By **RON THORNBURG**
TODAY Staff Writer

Despite her husband's slim victory in the New
pshire primary Tuesday, politics wasn't a topic
of conversation when Betty Ford met briefly with
Ford officials Wednesday.

The First Lady was introduced to representatives
of state, county and city government at a VIP recep-
-just minutes before she spoke at ceremonies
at the Good Elementary School in Melbourne.



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

be available for questions in Melbourne.

Councilman Ed Keller said he greeted Mrs. Ford
on behalf of Melbourne and told her: "don't wait for
-and Mrs. Ford, C. J. Wheeler.

Rogers called Mrs. Ford a "very gracious lady."
"She put us all at ease," he said.

"She is a very warm and gracious person who
wasn't staging an act for the children. She was truly
enjoying herself," Rogers said of Mrs. Ford's tour
of the classrooms.

He said the two-hour visit came off without a
hitch because of the planning of Principal Kathryn
Eward, Asst. Supt. for instruction John Forbes and
South Lee, Sgt. C. J. Wheeler.

Secretary Job 'Communication'

Cover 2-27-76

By AMY CLARK

WASH. Women's Editor

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld was surrounded by several press members during all of First Lady Betty Ford's visit

MS. WEIDENFELD has been with Mrs. Ford since her husband took office nearly two years ago. She acts as liaison between the First Lady and position or the power it holds. She seemed down to earth and genuinely caring. In trying to explain why Mrs. Ford chose Creel Ele-

enjoy campaigning?

"She doesn't really consider this campaigning," said Ms. Weidenfeld. "Of course, her husband is running in the



SHEILA WEIDENFELD
... press secretary



BETTY FORD
'... fabulous boss'

along with," said the press secretary.

SPECIALS TODAY



SHEILA WEIDENFELD, press secretary to First Lady Betty, said Wednesday at

FIRST LADY'S VISIT

Secretary Job 'Communication'

Cocoa 2-27-76

By AMY CLARK

Local Women's Editor

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld was surrounded by several

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BETTY FORD
'... fabulous boss'

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SPECIALS TODAY



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Betty Hits Campaign Trail, Gently

See page 2
By ANN WOOD *2/26/76*
Of The News Washington Bureau

Naples, Fla., Feb. 25—First lady Betty Ford, describing her husband's victory in the New Hampshire primary as "mean

route from Melbourne to Port Charlotte to Naples was remarkably small.

She spent several hours at dedication ceremonies for the Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School in Melbourne this morning, but her audience consisted mostly of children. Later, at the

2 kidnapped Americans freed in Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon

Two American officials kidnapped in Beirut last October were released Wednesday, informed sources said.

They were Charles Gallagher,

Sisco takes job as American U. president

Washington

President Ford has accepted the resignation of Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Joseph Sisco, who is leaving the State Department to become

advisers in July, Mr. Ford said he was accepting the resignation with deepest regret.

Mr. Ford said he wished to particularly acknowledge the role Mr. Sisco had played in the formulation of U.S. policies in the Middle East and the United Nations. Mr. Sisco, who comes from Chicago, has been in government service for the past 25 years. Since December, 1973, he has had special responsibility in the State Department for Middle East policy.

Mrs. Ford's late call awakens the President

Jacksonville, Fla.

First Lady Betty Ford was so happy about her husband's victory in the New Hampshire primary she awakened him with a

Bloopers lighten UN load

United Nations, N.Y.

The United Nations has been pictured in gloomy tones of late. But it also has its light side, which Alexander Schwartz has been quietly recording for years.

Mr. Schwartz, a Hungarian-born linguist who can work in 15 languages, is one of the United Nations' 368 translators. In his 11 years with the organization he has culled dozens of what he calls "bloopers" from the thousands of documents that pass his way.

UN workers on strike at Geneva headquarters

Geneva

United Nations office employees and maintenance staff seized control of generators at the UN Eu-

*Christina S. Mon.
2/26/76*



BETTY FORD CAMPAIGNING FOR HUSBAND IN MELBOURNE, FLA.

The Reagan knockout punch missed, the pressures were reversed.

be jolted by the news from New Hampshire. Their rhetoric and the realities:

UDALL. "This campaign is on target and on track—our destination is Madison Square Garden," declared the easygoing Congressman, who also insisted that he was picking up "Momentum." (He often predicts that "Enie, Meenie and Minie will drop out, leaving only Mo.") Udall's strong second place did stamp him as the early leader in the fight for survival among the four most liberal Democratic candidates. If the party's "ABC" ("Anyone But Carter") liberals coalesce in a stop-Carter movement, Udall is in position to lead it. Idaho Senator Frank Church, another liberal, intends to enter the race later, but by the time he does, Udall may well have pre-empted the left side of the field.

BAYH. "We're running a strong third," Bayh shouted incongruously to his supporters after the vote count. The Indiana Senator clearly lost the most in New Hampshire. Before the election, Udall's press secretary Richard Stout saw Bayh and Udall in a similar bind. Said he: "We're both broke, and we know that one or more of us can't last after Massachusetts without a score."

HARRIS. The self-styled champion of the common folk managed a brave quip: "Our problem is that the little people weren't able to reach the levers on the voting machines. We need a stool in every voting place." But Harris, shaken by his poor finish, was more candid than most: "We did not do as well as we thought we would." Indeed, only his diehard determination and penny-pinching campaigning can keep him in the contest.

SHRIVER. "Like Lazarus, I've risen from the experts' graves," insisted Senator Edward Kennedy's brother-in-law.

But there was no realistic way to find anything rosy in Shriver's fifth-place finish—last among the major candidates. To some voters, his Kennedy ties were more a liability than an asset. "He's just an extension of the Kennedys, and when he finally gets to the convention, he would just hand it over to the Kennedys," contended Dick MacDonald, 25, a gas station attendant in Portsmouth, who decided to vote for Udall. Yet Shriver also ran a poor campaign, coming across as a lively but uninspiring lightweight—at best, only half a Kennedy.

Carter won only in part because he had the moderate-to-right portion of the party's ideological spectrum to himself, a situation that will not prevail in Massachusetts and Florida. Yet except for perhaps Harris on the left, the ideological differences between Carter and the other candidates did not sharply emerge. In New Hampshire, Carter was not seen as—and indeed he is not—a right-winger. According to a CBS poll only 41% of the Democrats who identified themselves as conservatives voted for him, which meant the more liberal candidates actually split 59% of this vote. In fact, Carter's base was broad; Bayh's aides conceded that Carter, rather than another liberal, was often the second choice of Bayh's supporters. Udall admitted that "the undecideds must have broken more for Carter than for us."

Carter did far better than Bayh or Udall among blue-collar workers. In Manchester, where Bayh was expected to be strong because of the endorsement of some labor leaders, Carter topped Bayh, 3,239 to 2,567, while Udall got 1,843. Said Armond Laurence, a worker at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard: "Most of the guys decided to vote for Carter because he's someone who's not

afraid to get his hands dirty." Carter did well among low-income groups, Catholics, the middle-aged and least-educated voters.

Udall's strength emerged in more traditional liberal areas of the state, including Hanover (home of Dartmouth) and Durham (home of the University of New Hampshire), as well as Keene, Lebanon and Concord, where strong organizations mobilized the voters. His dry self-deprecating wit and his skill for breaking up the oil companies by regulating strip mining were popular among the young and the best-educated. But he lacked Carter's zest for the campaign. One day at a Nashua school, Udall made a good impression on several workers asked, "He didn't know who he was—who is he?" Said a member of the Hampshire Democratic Party, William Laurence Radway, who asked Udall: "I wish he would have done a basketball around a few gyms in Manchester." If he had the 6-ft. 5-in. height he would have done it well: he is a professional basketball player.

In the two-man Republican primary, Ford fought off defeat by persistently criticizing Reagan in the campaign's closing days, touring his own most active areas at the last moment actively using banks of telephones (see *lowing story*). Yet in such a narrow victory, fate proved helpful. Unusually balmy weather contributed to an unexpectedly large voter turnout, especially luring independents to the clear-cut Republican contest. If turnout had been smaller, the Democrats would not have got so many liberal moderates, but Reagan could have counted on his zealous support.

However psychologically, New Hampshire was to the credit of both parties, they had little to dissect its portents. The primary week in Massachusetts is far more important for the Democrats. Udall has to do well. He has the endorsement of House Democratic Leader "Tip" O'Neill, former Speaker Archibald Cox and the academic-oriented liberals. Because so many are going for him, a poor showing would mean down his chances. Conceded Udall last week: "If I don't lead the liberal wing next week from today, the Udall campaign is going to have to reassess its strategy. Yet Massachusetts is also in a difficult situation, with both Wallace and Jackson exploiting the state's anxiety, that it may say little about the actual outcome of the emerging Wallace-Jackson showdown."

That test will come next week in Florida, where three Democrats have little chance. Though others are on the ballot, including Bayh, Udall and even Carter, only one of the top liberals is campaigning, which gives Carter an edge on the left, in contrast to his situation in Hampshire. Thus the mo-

federal budget by \$90 billion—was not the victory margin was uncomfortably narrow for Republicans. Now the contest is rated a

President Stays Home for Vote Count

Star
2/25/76

Ford Aides Wait Without Him

By Fred Barnes

Washington Star Staff Writer

The Ford people gathered in a second-floor suite of offices in a downtown high-rise, not at the White House, to welcome what they hoped would be the President's first election victory outside of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Nobody seemed to want them at the Executive

mism and explanations for a possible Ford defeat.

"My guts feel good," Spencer declared, and then he went on to denounce former President Richard M. Nixon for making an untimely trip to China. "If President Ford loses in New Hampshire, Richard Nixon will be the reason," he said.

"I wouldn't put it quite

ing his jacket and exposing his red suspenders), left about 10 p.m., explaining that he had to be an early morning television show.

First to get the word was Spencer, who spent most of the evening in his cramped office, talking on the telephone to Cheney at the White House or campaign aide Richard Mastrangelo in New Hampshire.

claim, cautiously, the victory.

"The minute I left I knew we'd forge ahead," he said. This was a kind of joke about the criticism of his performance as campaign boss. "It appears we've won," he announced.

The win in New Hampshire made it five in a row, he said. Ford won a straw poll among Republicans in Iowa, favorable delegates

N-2

Mrs. Ford Avoids Partisan Remarks in Florida
(By Lee Thornton, CBS)

Travelling through Florida this week, Mrs. Ford has been deliberately steering away from any suggestion that she is playing a political role, Lee Thornton (CBS) reported Thursday.

"She is avoiding any partisan remarks and so far most of her public appearances are at decidedly non-political events. Still, she says she hopes she is doing well in Florida. When asked about the campaign issues she replies, 'I'm not speaking on the issues. Seeing my husband elected is my issue,'" Thornton said.

"Even though she says she is not campaigning, Betty Ford is a considerable political asset. Her apparently genuine warmth and interest in people goes over well with crowds. In Port Charlotte, senior citizens nearly mobbed Mrs. Ford when she visited a recreation center. The 4,000 who turned out pushed and shoved for a glimpse of Betty Ford. It was good exposure for a first lady who says she gets vibrations from people, and she says that the vibrations she gets so far in Florida are great," Thornton reported. CBS Morning News -- (2/26/76)

Democrats Attack Carter

Liberal Democratic candidates set to work in Massachusetts Thursday to break Jimmy Carter's momentum following his N.H. victory.

Campaigning among working and middle-income commuters in the Boston suburbs, Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) said Carter's plan to eliminate income tax deductions for interest paid on home mortgages would cost homeowners \$6 billion more each year.

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) said Carter was "not only wrong, but down right Republican" on most issues. Bayh criticized Carter's stand on right to work laws, energy, public service jobs, tax reform and revenue sharing. Networks -- (2/26/76)

Church to Receive Matching Funds

The Federal Election Commission Thursday declared Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) eligible to receive federal campaign funds. The Commission certified \$100,000 for his still unofficial campaign committee. AP, UPI, Networks -- (2/26/76)

ment, and 3 percent for ...

Betty Ford Greeted on Trip to Florida

N.Y. Times 2/27/74 Page 10

By ROY REED

Special to The New York Times

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla.,

Feb. 25—Betty Ford is in Florida this week for her first extended trip without her husband since the beginning of the Presidential campaign.

She has made five appearances in two days, all "non-political" and will make

across Florida and the nation.

The most moving scene was an unrehearsed one at noon today at the Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School in Melbourne.

A little black girl who was reading a certificate naming Mrs. Ford a member of the "Society of Spirit of P.T.A.-76" stumbled over an unfamiliar word and finally stood hushed,

Do You?" and "Please Help Us Save the Unborn—The First Lady Won't."

However, her reception generally has been warm. Crowds estimated by law enforcement officials at 3,000 to 4,000 greeted her today at the school dedication, and later at a retirement village here.

Mrs. Ford spoke briefly at each stop in her soft-spoken

Betty Goes It Alone, Pounding On Doors In Miami Campaign

By CINDY ROSE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Betty Ford campaigned door-to-door for her husband yesterday, walking the streets here in a light rain, trailed by children—
soaking her outcrop.

Ft. Lauderdale News,

2/28

Betty Visits For Votes

MIAMI (AP) — Betty Ford took to the streets yesterday, canvassing door-to-door and surprising residents at six o'clock with a "Vote for Ford" pitch.

"Well, then, we cancel each other out," Mrs. Ford said, but she still spent the usual five minutes at the Slepow's home and couldn't resist adding, "You

'Pretty' Nancy Greets Backers

By JACK NOLAN

Sentinel Star Staff

Nancy Reagan brought the politics of beauty to Altamonte

While Mrs. Reagan smiled and chatted amiably with the passing women, campaign aides scurried and buzzed behind her, arranging her brief question-and-answer ses-

MRS. REAGAN told reporters Saturday that, ironically, "All the Democrats have picked it up and have followed it during the campaign." She would not say the

With the start of the weekend brunch, said things like, "Nice to meet you."

Others had messages of

at the restaurant, Mrs. Reagan came too close to accusing President Ford of mudslinging.

Orlando Sentinel Star,
2/28

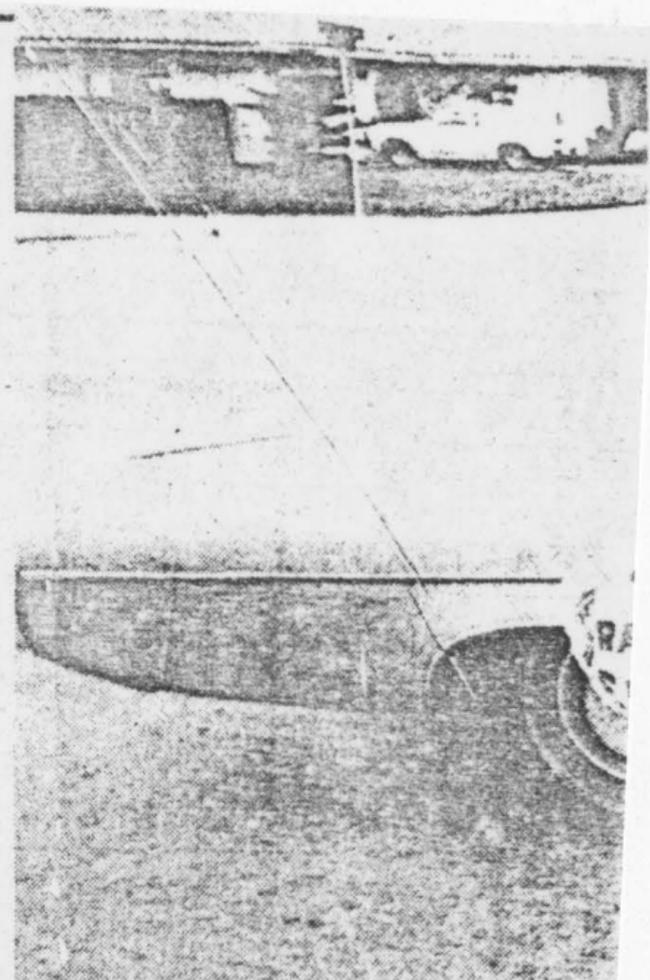
Ford Friends' Florida Stumping Wraps Up Here

By **BUD NEWMAN**
Post Staff Writer

A two-day, three-city trip to Florida by 91 Michigan friends of President Ford ended in West Palm Beach yesterday as the high-spirited group drank fresh orange juice, soaked up what little sun broke

he eventually became an All-America college center at Michigan.

Tom Ford, who joined the rest of the party at the airport just before the 2 p.m. departure back to Michigan, said that after his weekend trip to Florida he was "very optimistic"



T. 2-23-76

Mrs. Ford to Visit Melbourne School

By KAREN MEYER
TODAY Staff Writer

First Lady Betty Ford will
preside Wednesday over long-

a private program with the
children," said Brevard
School Board Supt. Luther
Rogers.

ice and White House security
personnel, mapping the school
and making final arrange-
ments for the First Lady's

Nixon, she said, "but then
Watergate broke," so the
youngsters turned their efforts
to Ford.

thrilled," Mrs. Eward said.

President Ford is expected
to visit Florida within the next



Betty to Stay Busy in Brevard School

By DAVE HEATH
TODAY Staff Writer

When First Lady Betty Ford comes to dedicate Melbourne's Creel Elementary School Wednesday, she won't lack for entertainment.

The first skit will be "Happy Birthday, America," performed by the kindergarten. That skit will include singing and dancing, with characters portraying Betsy Ross, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and others.

Mrs. Eward said "Happy Birthday, America" origi-

been performed for the past four years, ever since the pupils were in the old Creel school.

After a little rest, Mrs. Ford is then scheduled to take part in the public dedication of Creel, which is at 1566 Palmwood Way.



MRS. BETTY FORD
...to dedicate Creel Elementary

Creel's media center for a program put on by the pupils.

Then follows "I Am Somebody," a skit that has

then.

T
2-2376

2-4-76-55

School Dreams Answered

When Betty Ford Visits

By ANN ZEWEN

Sentinel Star Staff

TITUSVILLE — A five-year effort to build the confidence of a group of Melbourne children and prove to them they are important finally will pay off Wednesday

The students then had another idea, they wanted to invite the President or the First Lady to dedicate the school.

Letters were written first to former President Richard Nixon and then to President Gerald Ford.

T
2-25-74

Betty Ford To Receive Local Art

Titusville's jeweler-sculptor **Cecil Herring** was commissioned Monday afternoon to do a piece of jewelry which will be presented to First Lady **Betty Ford** this morning when Mrs. Ford dedicates the **W.J. Creel Elementary School** in Melbourne.

Mrs. Herring who has a one-woman gallery showing this week at **Kelsey Jewelist** in Melbourne was at the shop when **Mrs. Katherine Eward**, principal of Creel called Mr.

... .. SITE FOR THE NEXT MONTH. After
DEDICATION AT 12:30 P.M.

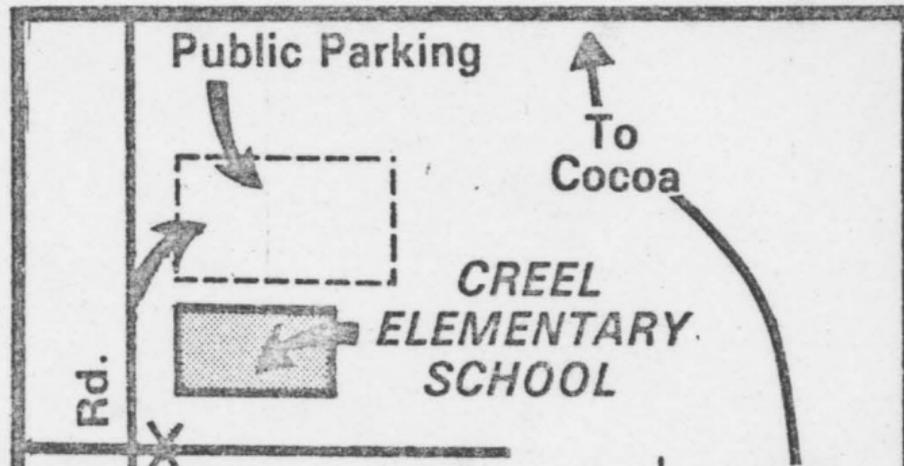
Mrs. Ford Arrives Today

Res. T-5-70

- Welcome Betty, 6A
- Mrs. Ford launches for-
ay in Jacksonville, 8A
- She'll learn of Matt
Johnson, 1B
- Artist designs gift, 1D

By **JOHN BARTOSEK**
TODAY Staff Writer

County school officials are
braced for the arrival this
morning of First Lady Betty
Ford.



Editorials



Vince Spezzano
Publisher

Barney Waters
Managing Editor

Nick White
Editorial Page Editor

Welcome to Brevard, Betty

Welcome to Brevard County, Mrs. Ford.

Your visit for the dedication of Creel Elementary School in Melbourne today will be a memorable

try and should be able to handle its future well.

In the relatively short time you have been our First Lady, you have

Betty Ford To Dedicate School Today

TITUSVILLE — County school officials and students will join Mrs. Betty Ford in formal ceremonies today dedicating the Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School in Melbourne.

The ceremonies are scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. in front of the school on Palmwood Drive.

Mrs. Kathryn Eward, principal, will welcome Mrs. Ford and the

Betty Ford Goes Back To School



(Sentinel Star Photos by Andrew J. Hickman)

First Lady Waltzes With 'First President'

By JEFF KUNERTH
 Sentinel Star Staff

MELBOURNE — Betty Ford, in the second stop on a solo campaign swing through Florida, jumped off the bandwagon and onto the stage of an elementary school Wednesday to dance a waltz with a sixth-grade student.

Arriving at 11 a.m. for a tour and dedication of the W. J. Creel Elementary School, Mrs. Ford accepted an unexpected invitation from sixth grader Patrick Mondor, dressed as George Washington, to dance as part of a bicentennial skit performed by the children.

THE YOUNGSTERS' lead faltered at times, but the First Lady, a former professional dancer, smiled throughout the dance and seemed to be enjoying herself.

The President's wife restricted her remarks to compliments about the new school, not mentioning her husband's narrow New Hampshire primary victory over challenger Ronald Reagan.

But the enthusiastic crowd of 5,000 who turned out to hear Mrs. Ford's five-minute talk affirmed her value in President Ford's Florida campaign efforts leading to the March 9 primary.

MRS. FORD began her Florida swing in Jacksonville Tuesday. Her schedule will take her to Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, Miami, Sarasota and Tampa through the weekend.

Before leaving Jacksonville earlier, Mrs. Ford told reporters she considered her husband's victory in the New Hampshire primary Tuesday "marvelous."

"I talked to my husband last night. He already had gone to bed. I woke him but he didn't mind."

MRS. FORD predicted that the

President would fare well in Florida's primary.

"You get vibrations from the people, and the ones I get so far are great," she said.

As the First Lady's motorcade traveled from Patrick Air Force Base to the school, a group of children from Patrick Elementary School lined the road. She stopped the motorcade, got out of her car and chatted with many of the youngsters.

AS SHE WADED into the crowd, with Secret Service men close behind, Mrs. Ford was quickly surrounded by children seeking to shake her hand.

Arriving at the Creel school, Mrs. Ford spent more than an hour touring classrooms, stopping to chat with the children and teachers.

SHE WAS presented with a single red rose by kindergarten student J. D. Lance and a silver eagle necklace — representing the school's symbol — by sixth grader Cathy Boyette.

A plaque was given to Mrs. Ford by third grader Twanda Harrell, who midway through the reading of the plaque stumbled on a word and asked Mrs. Ford, herself a one-time teacher, for help.

MRS. FORD bent over and read the word, "distinguished," which won cheers from the students and teachers. Embarrassed, Twanda reached for Mrs. Ford and the two hugged each other.

The school children also presented Mrs. Ford with a school banner, after which she returned to her small chair among the students and watched the remainder of a patriotic program of songs and skits.

Dressed in a bright yellow suit,

(Continued On Page 6-A, Col. 5)

W. J. Creel's kindergarten teacher, Susan Stafford, queries one of her pupils during visit by Mrs. Ford to Brevard school dedication Wednesday. Mrs. Ford was very impressed with excellent behavior of youngsters while she was in classroom. Later an unexpected invitation to dance was extended by sixth grader, Patrick Mondor, costumed for bicentennial skit. First Lady enjoyed waltz with 'First President George Washington.'



2-26-76

Visit From First Lady Had School Scrambling

By JEFF KUNERTH
Sentinel Star Staff

MELBOURNE — Minutes before the Wednesday morning arrival of first lady Betty Ford, two W. J. Creel Elementary School officials were frantically arranging and rearranging the cold metal folding chairs for the local and county officials expected to attend the school's dedication ceremonies.

"Let's see," said one of the women directing the arrangement "Gene Roberts, then (John) Hurdle. We need to find him. Leave a space. Joe Wickham's not coming. Then (Lee) Wenner."

It wasn't until the third row with city council members and assorted other county officials that the women discovered in the general confusion they had forgot-

stiff cold wind in an attempt to tape large paper banners to the school's wall welcoming Betty Ford.

"How about some tape down here,"

"Could use some tape, here."

"HEY, DON'T tape it over the door."

"Here's a piece of tape. Anybody want some tape?"



1-2-68

Betty's Visit Truly Special

With the eyes and ears plus the TV cameras, tape recorders and pens and notebooks of 56 members of the national and local news media recording her every movement, every whisper and word, one wonders how First Lady **Betty Ford** manages to look as calm and composed as she obviously does.

Mrs. Ford's visit to dedicate Dr. W. I.

One of the brightest moments of the visit was at the conclusion of the highly entertaining program presented by the children of Creel, when Mrs. Ford was presented the Creel School flag, a pin and a sterling silver eagle pendant on a sterling silver chain. She put the eagle on immediately and told the children, "I am very very proud to be here today. This is one of the



BETTY FORD

MRS. FORD AT DEDICATION

Fondness, Curiosity Draw Crowd

12-26-76

By **BONNIE ANDERSON**
TODAY Writer

Mrs. Edwin Hicks fought the Brevard School Board for two months to get a fence put up between her home at 1522 Palm Wood Way and Creel Elementary School in Melbourne.

And because of that fence and the shrubbery the school board put next to it. Mrs.



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

But for students from Palm Bay Elementary School, Mrs. Ford's visit caused some concern for her health and

cationer from Toledo, Ohio. "I never saw a president or his lady friend. We missed the President in Clearwater last

said Teresa Karnes, from Ascension. "And it's not every day that you get to see the First Lady anywhere, much less Melbourne."

"I'm the first one in my family to see Mrs. Ford," said Palm Bay Elementary School student Frank Vaccarelli. "That's why I'm so excited."

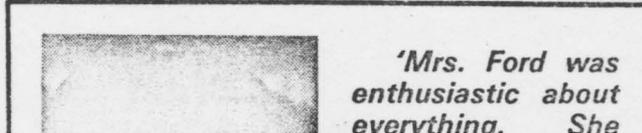
Eight cadets from Florida Air Academy, two from each

Principal Praised for Program

By **AMY CLARK**

TODAY Women's Editor

As the First Lady's motorcade pulled away from Dr. W.J. Creel Elementary School



'Mrs. Ford was enthusiastic about everything. She

Ford was impressed with what seemed to be very good race relations at Creel.

"She said she had a better feeling in this school than any

T
2-26-76

She Saw Chiefs Of Past

T.
2-26-76

By **BONNIE ANDERSON**
TODAY Writer

Sitting in her lawn chair calmly observing the Creel Elementary School dedication ceremony, 89-year-old Elvie Reuthebuck smiled as she reminisced over past presidents, first ladies and administrations.

"I haven't always sat down when presidents and such were around," said Mrs. Reuthebuck, 2767 S. Breeze Road "I was living in Washington all during the war. I was at the White House gates when Roosevelt declared war, and I was there when Truman came out and said the war was over," she said.

Youth Meets The Fords

T.
2-26-76

By **JOHN BARTOSEK**
TODAY Staff Writer

A 9-year-old Melbourne boy met, shook hands and chatted with both the President and the First Lady—all

Security for First Lady Relaxed But Alert

By DAVE HEATH
TODAY Staff Writer

Security seemed relaxed yet alert Wednesday when Mrs. Betty Ford came to dedicate Melbourne's Creel Elementary School.

Secret Service agents wouldn't comment on the precautions that had been made for the First Lady's visit, but



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

when the President was the target of two assassination attempts last year, and the ant superintendent for instructional services, said the report from the secret service was



Brevard's Betty Meets Namesake

By RITA RUBIN
TODAY Writer

Mrs. Betty Ford met Mrs. Betty Ford at the Dr. W. I.

And the First Lady wasn't looking at her reflection in a mirror, because the "Second Lady" was Mrs. Betty Ford of Titusville, a first-grade teach-

Perhaps as many as two dozen Melbourne policemen were on hand Wednesday, some of them forming a perimeter around the school before Mrs. Ford got there.

The uniformed policemen kept a constantly watchful eye on the crowds awaiting Mrs. Ford, which grew throughout the morning despite the threat

Creel's Founder Would Love Betty

By JOHN BARTOSEK
TODAY Staff Writer

Dr. W. J. Creel would have enjoyed all the fuss Wednesday.

He would have taken it with a smile, a joke and a

There was more: the salty humor, the even-handed decisions with "what is best for the student" uppermost. The care and concern for patients to ride in a train baggage car on a cot to the nearest hospital



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

his remains. Henegar was closed last year by the school board.

Before Creel Elementary was on Palmwood, it was on Pineapple Avenue. Those old stucco buildings still stand

was renamed to honor Dr. Creel.

He would have been proud, too, of the determination of his students and their principal, fellow Georgian Mrs. Kather-



TODAY Staff Photos by John Dickerson

Betty Ford Is Charmed With Youngsters in Melbourne

Boy Dances With First Lady After 3-Day Waltz Lesson

By JOHN BARTOSEK
TODAY Staff Writer

Pat Mondor learned the waltz in three days and practiced at night during the television commercials.

And when it was time Wednesday to invite Betty



Creel Children Captivate the First Lady

By JOHN BARTOSEK
TODAY Staff Writer

Urban planning, siphoning water and the differences between a "p" and a "b" were just a few of the lessons Betty Ford joined in at Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School Wednesday.

The First Lady spent about 90 minutes moving through eight classrooms at the school after greeting faculty members. The former professional dancer attended a musical skit and did a short waltz with "George Washington."

Mrs. Ford smiled and laughed as she talked quietly with the youngsters and listened to recitations. She grew serious when she met a class

children studying sets in a mathematics group. She helped Shawna Hoff prepare a chain of red, white and blue blocks, and watched as Celeste Garner sorted colored cards and matched them with colored tubs.

"You do that very quickly. Very good, Celeste," she said.

Mrs. Ford sat on the floor with Michael Boyett as he played with stuffed cloth letters. By flopping the letter around, Michael identified a "b," a "p" and a "d" for teacher Susan Stafford.

In the next classroom, Mrs. Ford took the rocking chair seat of teacher Mrs. Viola Franklin and had the first and second graders read her



As Tim Smith stood in the middle of the classroom calling out the time every five seconds, Walton called out "sevens." As quickly as they could, the children wrote down the "seven-times" tables from one to nine. The first ones finished and stood up as Tim reached the 15-second mark.

Mrs. Ford appeared dazed at first by the activity, but Creel Elementary Principal Mrs. Kathryn Eward explained the game.

"Oh, how pretty. That was marvelous. Thank you all, children, you did a good job," Mrs. Ford said.

Between classes, a kindergarten student, J.D. Lance, presented her with a long-

silver eagle necklace made by Titusville's Cecil Herring. Tawanda Harrold read a plaqué inscription from the Florida Congress of PTA but hesitated over one word near the end.

In the embarrassing pause, Mrs. Ford leaned over and whispered to Tawanda and the word came out: distinguished. Then she impulsively threw her arms around the First Lady and kissed her.

Red-haired Tracy Piechocki quickly gave Mrs. Ford a PTA pin and left the stage without saying a word. A South Vietnamese brother and sister, Than and Hien Nguyen, presented her with a school banner.

Speaking slowly, Mrs.



TODAY Staff Photo by Red Morgan

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL FOR MRS. FORD AT CREEL ELEMENTARY
... called experience 'one of the most exciting days of my life'

First Lady Charms Children

From Page 1A

and promised to answer all of the letters.

"I talked to my husband last night," Mrs. Ford said. "He already had gone to bed. I woke him, but he didn't mind." The First Lady pre-

before departing from Patrick how she prepares for visits to various places, Mrs. Ford replied succinctly: "I just try to be myself."

ous."

Asked by a reporter just of the Liberty Bell.

2-26-76



The First Lady Charms Pupils At Dedication

By **GLENN SINGER**
TODAY Staff Writer

The wife of a President visited Brevard on Wednesday charming well-wishers, singing "Yankee Doodle" and dancing a waltz.

Betty Ford, on the second



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

Betty Rates Press Praise

By RITA RUBIN

TODAY Writer

While some Americans criticize their outspoken First Lady for her often controversial views, members of the Washington press corps in Melbourne Wednesday praised Betty Ford for her warmth and frankness.

"She's the most open and free spirit in the White House," said Jane Whitmore, a Newsweek correspondent. "If you can get through to her and ask her questions, she will answer. She's her own person."

T
2-27-76

d

TODAY

Additional Brevard News on 2B

Datebook.....	2B	Help.....	3B
Names and Notes	2B	Florida TODAY . . .	6B

Kids Note the Waltz, the Press Corps

By JOHN BARTOSEK
TODAY Staff Writer

Betty Ford's smile and yellow dress, the short waltz with a sixth grade student and the mass of clicking cameras were the facts remembered

and dedicating the four-year-old buildings.

While all the children were awed by actually seeing or meeting the President's wife, many of them were also amazed by the crowd of about



Betty Ford
Visits Brevard

good," wrote Sheryl Foulk.
"I think Mrs. Ford is a good dancer. I wonder if Mr. Ford is a good dancer too," mused Brett Perkins.

Others remembered her appearance in the bright vel-

like that for publicity, I like someone who does it for non-political reasons and to enjoy themselves."

One boy wrote that he was most impressed by the shiny silver bullets and black clubs

T
2-27-76

Mrs. Ford, Officials Avoid Politics

By **RON THORNBURG**
TODAY Staff Writer

Despite her husband's slim victory in the New Hampshire primary Tuesday, politics wasn't a topic of conversation when Betty Ford met briefly with Brevard officials Wednesday.

The First Lady was introduced to representatives of state, county and city government at a VIP recep-



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

Rogers called Mrs. Ford a "very gracious lady." "She put us all at ease," he said. "She is a very warm and gracious person who wasn't staging an act for the children. She was truly enjoying herself," Rogers said of Mrs. Ford's tour of the classrooms.

He said the two-hour visit came off without a hitch because of the planning of Principal Kathryn

be available for questions in Melbourne

FIRST LADY'S VISIT

T. 2-27-76

Secretary Job 'Communication'

By AMY CLARK

TODAY Women's Editor

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld was surrounded by several press members during all of First Lady Betty Ford's visit to Melbourne Wednesday. What was the attraction of the pert and talkative Ms. Weidenfeld other than the fact that she was attractive and personable?

Well, if you can't get close to the First Lady, who's your second choice? The First La-

position or the power it holds. She seemed down to earth and genuinely caring.

In trying to explain why Mrs. Ford chose Creel Elementary School to visit during her campaign swing through Florida where her husband will run in the March 9 primary election, Ms. Weidenfeld said, "There were several reasons, one being that the kids here did invite her to come, but also because she had heard how good the school is

enjoy campaigning?

"She doesn't really consider this campaigning," said Ms. Weidenfeld. "Of course, her husband is running in the primary here, you can't ignore that, but what she's doing here is in Florida is not campaigning in that sense of the word. She's doing things she would do whether it's an election year or not. The only campaigning per se she'll do on this trip is some door-to-door



LATE
NEWS
1-B

Brevard Sentinel

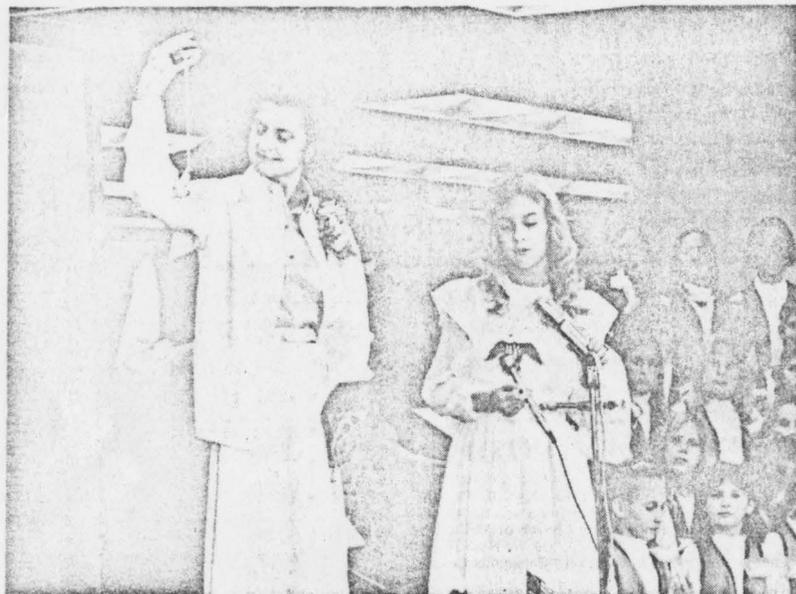
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Friday, February 27, 1976



DR. W. J. CREEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Betty Ford Big Hit In Brevard

Betty Ford came to Brevard County Wednesday to dedicate the Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School and the First Lady was a





Fromst... Drum Up Support for Their Friend



Can Space Technology Rescue Us?

*'Alternative' Seen
On Other Planet*

Should efforts to preserve energy and other resources on earth fail, the U.S. space program may have provided the technological foundation necessary for mankind to estab-

Lauderdale Is Stumping Ground For Ford's Hometown Boosters

By ROBERT RETCHKO
Staff Writer

Armed with campaign literature and snowballs, a group from President Gerald Ford's hometown of Grand Rapids flew out of a Michigan blizzard and into sunny Fort Lauderdale yesterday to stump for the President.

Grand Rapids, 11 students from Ottawa High School in Grand Rapids and hometown supporters.

Everyone chipped in \$200 to charter the plane and brought along 3,000 "Michigan Delicious" apples and a freezer of snowballs to pass out.

After two buses ferried the group to a park near Rio Vista Boulevard

everyone met at the Southport Shopping Center on SE 17th Street before stopping for the night.

Some will stay at Bahia Mar, the Four Seasons Hotel, but most will sleep in sleeping bags at a hotel along Federal Highway.

"It's a working trip," said Miss Dreyer. "It's important to listen to your constituents, no matter who they're for."

They will fly back to Michigan this afternoon.

Campaign '76

*A brief look at the candidates' efforts --
what they've done, where they're going*

Ford - Growing More Assertive

President Ford spoke of many things — of ships, and spies and income tax — during a week in which his campaign appeared to grow more assertive.

Capitalizing on his incumbency, the President used the White House as a forum to announce a major restructuring of the U.S. intelligence community (which he shifted more under presidential control) and to take pointed swipes at Republican challenger Ronald Reagan.

Ford personally resurrected the "stock market" angle at a New Hampshire rally Thursday night, decrying it as "the best blueprint for backdoor socialism that I ever heard."

Ford campaigned Thursday and Friday in snowy New Hampshire. He characterized the primary there Tuesday as "very important" and said "I think we'll do well," but went on to say a loss there to Reagan "would not be too harmful" because "there are 49 other states." His aides



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TODAY



Florida's Space Age Newspaper
A Gannett newspaper published in Brevard County, Fla.



TODAY Staff Photo by Red Morgan

A HAPPY BETTY FORD DEDICATES CREEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
... before ceremony she joined children in festive Bicentennial presentation

Ye Lodging n Against Agents



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The First Lady Charms Pupils At Dedication

By **GLENN SINGER**
TODAY Staff Writer

The wife of a President visited Brevard on Wednesday charming well-wishers, singing "Yankee Doodle" and dancing a waltz.

Betty Ford, on the second day of her premier solo campaign trip as the wife of an in-



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

- Full page of stories, pictures, 3A
- Mrs. Ford dances with 'George Washington,' 1B

Creel Children Cap

By **JOHN BARTOSEK**
TODAY Staff Writer

Urban planning, siphoning water and the differences between a "p" and a "b" were just a few of the lessons Betty Ford joined in at Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School Wednesday.

The First Lady spent about 90 minutes moving through eight classrooms at the school after greeting faculty members. The former professional dancer attended

children studying sets in a mathematics group. She helped Shawna Hoff prepare a chain of red, white and blue blocks, and watched as Celeste Garner sorted colored cards and matched them with colored tubs.

"You do that very quickly. Very good, Celeste," she said.

Mrs. Ford sat on the floor with Michael Boyett as he played with stuffed cloth letters. By flopping the letter around, Michael identified

Shawna
2/3/76

Activate the First Lady

the homonyms "our" and "hour" were being compared. Fifth and sixth grader teacher Joe Walton's classes were studying percents at their scattered round tables when the First Lady entered. Then Walton announced, "Get out your scrap paper—multiplication drill."

As Tim Smith stood in the middle of the classroom calling out the time every five seconds, Walton called out "sevens." As quickly as they could, the children wrote down the "seven-times" tables from one to nine. The first ones finished and stood up as Tim reached the 15-second mark.

Mrs. Ford appeared dazed at first by the activity, but

silver eagle necklace made by Titusville's Cecil Herring. Tawanda Harrold read a plaque inscription from the Florida Congress of PTA but hesitated over one word near the end.

In the embarrassing pause, Mrs. Ford leaned over and whispered to Tawanda and the word came out: distinguished. Then she impulsively threw her arms around the



TODAY Staff Photo by Red Morgan

PRESENTING A GIFT, TAWANDA HARROLD IMPULSIVELY THROWS ARMS AROUND MRS. FORD
... First Lady helped youngster read word on plaque, and in return got a surprise hug and kiss



BETTY FORD OBSERVES STUDENTS WORK AT W.J. CREEL SCHOOL
'... This is the finest school and you are all very important to me,' she said



MRS. FORD CLAPS HER HANDS TO LIVELY BICENTENNIAL SHOW
... at one point participated herself by joining student in short waltz onstage

TODAY Staff Photos by Red Morgan

Security for First Lady

By **DAVE HEATH**
TODAY Staff Writer

Security seemed relaxed yet alert Wednesday when Mrs. Betty Ford came to dedicate Melbourne's Creel Elementary School.

Secret Service agents wouldn't comment on the precautions that had been made for the First Lady's visit, but a Brevard School Board official said about 12 agents were



Betty Ford

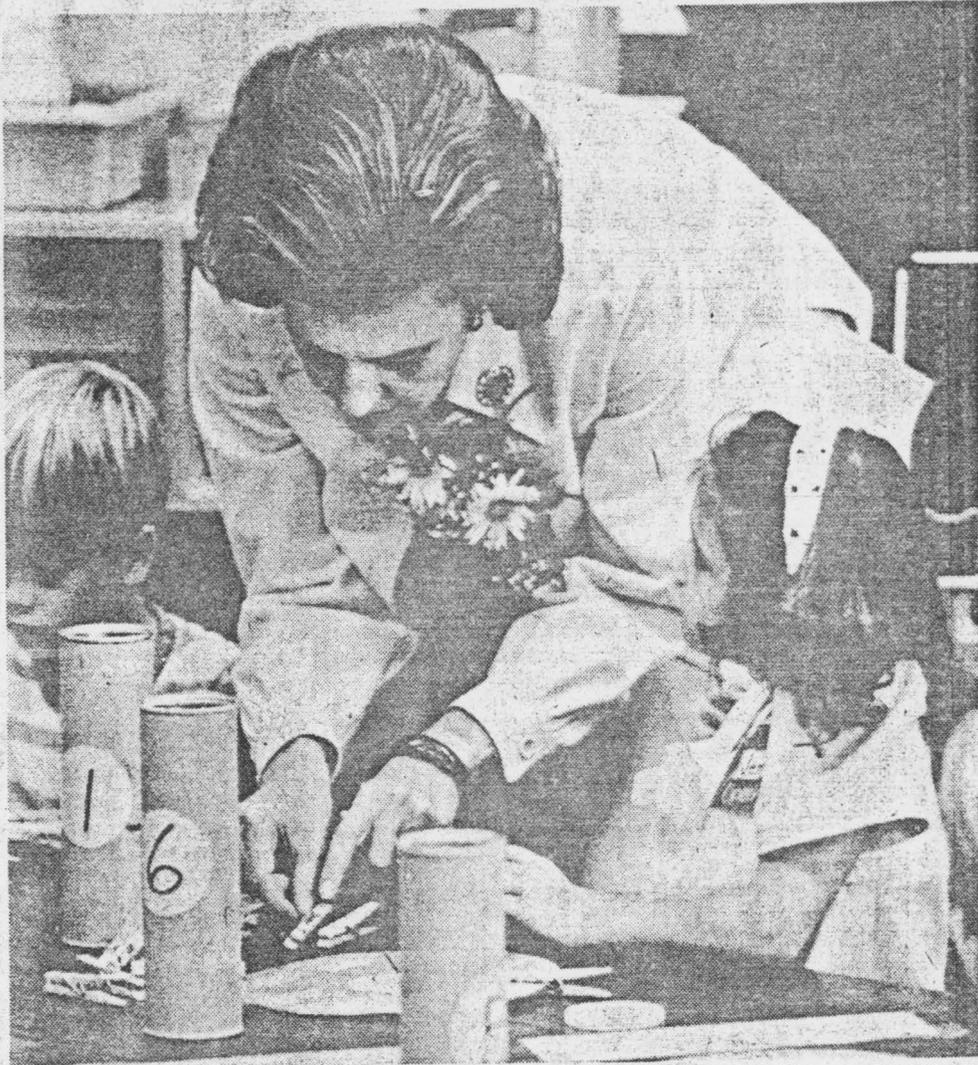
Visits Brevard

when the President was the target of two assassination attempts last year, and the press reported he had started wearing a bullet-proof vest at

ant superintendent for instructional services, said the report from the secret service was that all went well at Creel.

"One of the secret service

ly Relaxed But Alert



TODAY Staff Photo by John Dickerson

MRS. FORD TAKES A FEW MOMENTS FOR CHATTING
 ... The First Lady said she was thrilled to visit classrooms

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Principal Praised for Program

By AMY CLARK
TODAY Women's Editor

As the First Lady's motorcade pulled away from Dr. W.J. Creel Elementary School in Melbourne and the crowd began to disperse Wednesday, Principal Kathryn Eward accepted the accolades of her co-workers, her teachers, the PTA members and her supervisors.

It was a job well done, was the consensus.

Even a Secret Service man congratulated Mrs. Eward on how "smoothly" everything ran. "It was just the way it was supposed to be," he said

fall apart when I get home tonight



'Mrs. Ford was enthusiastic about everything. She said she was thrilled by the spirit and dignity of the children.'

—Kathryn Eward
Principal of Creel

much she liked the idea that everyone in the school took a

Ford was impressed with what seemed to be very good race relations at Creel.

"She said she had a better feeling in this school than any other school she's been in," the principal said.

"She also like our emphasis on the three Rs in the ultra-modern open space school," said Mrs. Eward. "She liked mixing the traditional with the modern."

Like the school's founder, Mrs. Eward is from Georgia.

At 32, the Augusta native has worked in the county school system for 11 years. She helped direct the change-

MRS. FORD AT DEDICATION

Fondness, Curiosity Draw Crowd

By **BONNIE ANDERSON**
TODAY Writer

Mrs. Edwin Hicks fought the Brevard School Board for two months to get a fence put up between her home at 1522 Palm Wood Way and Creel Elementary School in Melbourne.

And because of that fence and the shrubbery the school board put next to it, Mrs. Hicks had to stand on a step



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

But for students from Palm Bay Elementary School, Mrs. Ford's visit caused some concern for her health and well-being.

cationer from Toledo, Ohio. "I never saw a president or his lady friend. We missed the President in Clearwater last week—or was it two weeks

said Teresa Karnes, from Ascension. "And it's not every day that you get to see the First Lady anywhere, much less Melbourne."

"I'm the first one in my family to see Mrs. Ford," said Palm Bay Elementary School student Frank Vaccarelli. "That's why I'm so excited."

Eight cadets from Florida Air Academy, two from each grade, also attended the dedi-

She Saw Chiefs Of Past

By **BONNIE ANDERSON**

TODAY Writer

Sitting in her lawn chair calmly observing the Creel Elementary School dedication ceremony, 89-year-old Elvie Reuthebuck smiled as she reminisced over past presidents, first ladies and administra-

Youth Meets The Fords

By **JOHN BARTOSEK**
TODAY Staff Writer

A 9-year-old Melbourne boy met, shook hands and chatted with both the President and the First Lady—all within two weeks.

Tim Bunce, son of Clar-

Mrs. Ford, Officials Avoid Politics

By RON THORNBURG
TODAY Staff Writer

Despite her husband's slim victory in the New
Shire primary Tuesday, politics wasn't a topic of
conversation when Betty Ford met briefly with
Ford officials Wednesday.

The First Lady was introduced to representatives of
state, county and city government at a VIP recep-
tion minutes before she spoke at ceremonies



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

be available for questions in Melbourne.
Councilman Ed Keller said he greeted Mrs. Ford

Rogers called Mrs. Ford a "very gracious lady."
"She put us all at ease," he said.

"She is a very warm and gracious person who
wasn't staging an act for the children. She was truly
enjoying herself," Rogers said of Mrs. Ford's tour
of the classrooms.

He said the two-hour visit came off without a
hitch because of the planning of Principal Kathryn
Edward, Asst. Supt. for Instruction John Forbes and

Brevard's Betty Meets Namesake

By RITA RUBIN
TODAY Writer

Mrs. Betty Ford met Mrs. Betty Ford at the Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School in Melbourne on Wednesday.

And the First Lady wasn't looking at her reflection in a mirror, because the "Second Lady" was Mrs. Betty Ford of Titusville, a first-grade teacher at Whispering Hills Elementary School.

Red Tape Sidetracks Letter

Brevard

Red tape prevented Mrs. Betty Ford from learning about Matt Johnson, the Merritt Island youth who has been paralyzed since July following a gymnastics accident.

livery to Mrs. Ford during her visit to Brevard.

But according to Frey's Washington office, the packet missed the security clearance at Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary School and was unable to



Reagan Woos

By JAMES NOLAN
Herald Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Ronald Reagan, counting on a strong showing in Florida to offset his narrow loss in New Hampshire's presidential primary, told 10,000 people in

Reagan. Let me speak."

Reagan's speech was politely received by the crowd, but Reagan was nearly mobbed when he plunged into the crowd on a half-hour hand-shaking tour of the park.

Reagan staff aides attributed the crowd

Unfair Mob At Mr. Ford

If the President's press conference generated, as your editorial of Feb. 19 states, into a campaign speech, it was the fault of the questioning press representatives and not the fault of the President.

He concluded his reform proposals with...

Kids Note to the Waltz, the Press Corp

Cocoa 227-76
By JOHN BARTOSEK
Today Staff Writer

Betty Ford's smile and yellow dress, the short waltz with a sixth grade student and the mass of clicking cameras were the facts remembered most by students at Dr. W.J. Creef Elementary School the day after the First Lady's visit.

and dedicating the four-year-old buildings.

While all the children were awed by actually seeing or meeting the President's wife, many of them were also amazed by the crowd of about 65 national and local reporters and photographers who followed her from room to room



Betty Ford

Visits Brevard

• Mrs. Ford, local officials meet, avoid politics, 4B

good," wrote Sheryl Foulk.

"I think Mrs. Ford is a good dancer. I wonder if Mr. Ford is a good dancer too," mused Brett Perkins.

Others remembered her appearance in the bright yellow ultra-suede skirt and jacket with a yellow silk shirt.

"She was a beauty," wrote

like that for public someone who does it political reasons and themselves."

One boy wrote the most impressed by silver bullets and bk of the Melbourne pe

And Bonni Sutton was impressed by

Brevard

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TODAY

Datebook.....2B

Help.....3B

Names and Notes2B

Florida TODAY . . . 6B

Additional Brevard News on 2B

Creel's Founder Would Love Betty

By **JOHN BARTOSEK**
TODAY Staff Writer

Dr. W. J. Creel would have enjoyed all the fuss Wednesday.

He would have taken it with a smile, a joke and a wink at the nearest child.

South Brevard's first phy-

There was more: the salty humor, the even-handed decisions with "what is best for the student" uppermost. The care and concern for patients to ride in a train baggage car on a cot to the nearest hospital in Jacksonville. The indomitable spirit to drive in reverse



Betty Ford

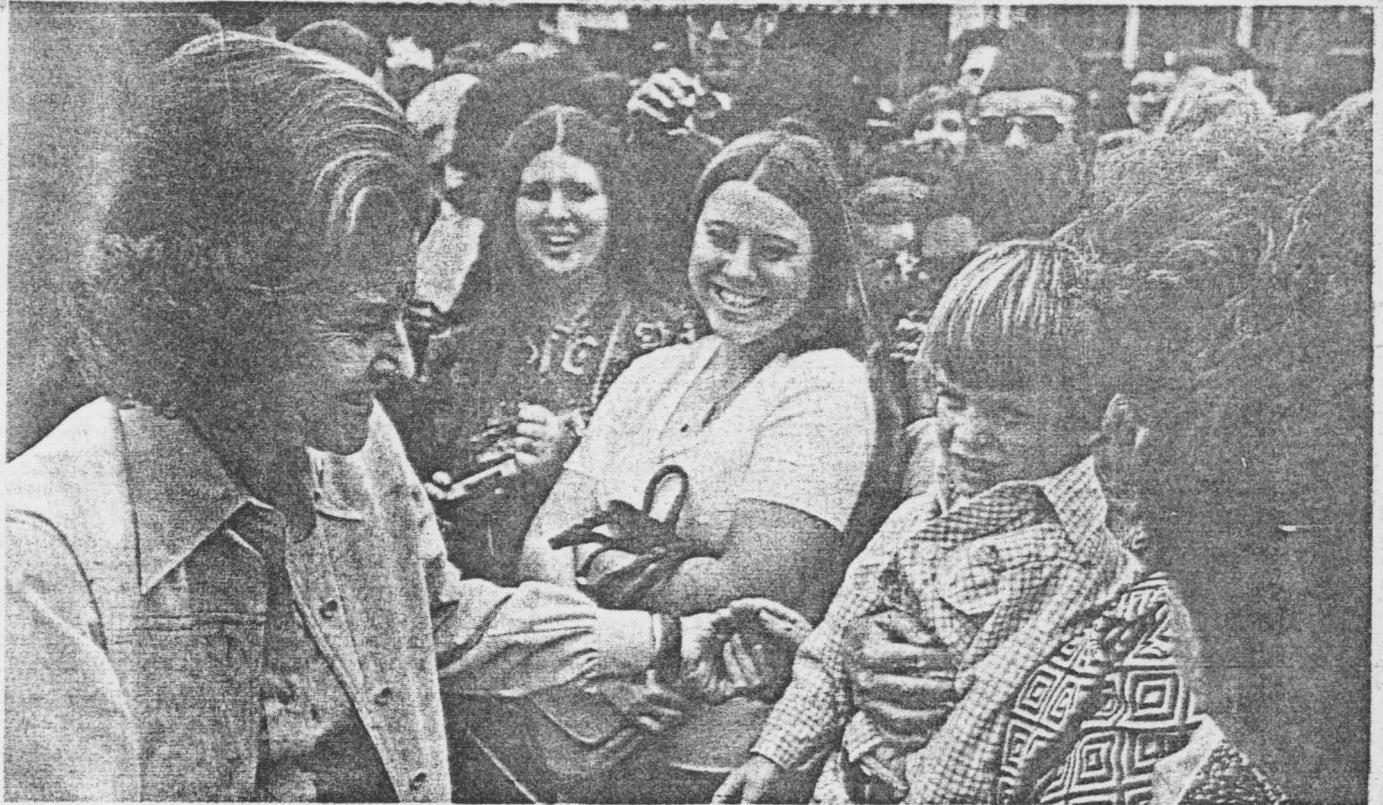
Visits Brevard

his remains. Henegar was closed last year by the school board.

Before Creel Elementary was on Palmwood, it was on Pineapple Avenue. Those old stucco buildings still stand and are used by hundreds of persons a day in adult continu-

was renamed to honor Dr. Creel.

He would have been proud, too, of the determination of his students and their principal, fellow Georgian Mrs. Katherine Eward. At 32, the Augusta native has worked in the coun-



TODAY Staff Photos by John Dickerson

Betty Ford Is Charmed With Youngsters in Melbourne

Bored

Boy Dances With First Lady After 3-Day Waltz Lesson

By JOHN BARTOSEK
TODAY Staff Writer

Pat Mondor learned the waltz in three days and practiced at night during the television commercials.



Mrs. Eward, in keeping with the Bicentennial flavor within the school, wore a bright red suit with a red, white and blue top.

Both wore their hemlines below the knee. And both wore corsages of daisies and pink carnations.

Mrs. Ford is slender and stands about 5 feet 6 inches tall. Her beautifully coiffed hair brought many comments. While everyone else's hair blew wildly in the steady winds of Wednesday, Mrs. Ford's was never ruffled.

One of the brightest moments of the visit was at the conclusion of the highly entertaining program presented by the children of Creel, when Mrs. Ford was presented the Creel School flag, a pin and a sterling silver eagle pendant on a sterling silver chain. She put the eagle on immediately and told the children, "I am very very proud to be here today. This is one of the most exciting days of my life."

Later, during the dedication ceremony, artist Cecil Herring of Titusville was overwhelmed to see Mrs. Ford wearing her creation of the eagle. "I'm so thrilled. I didn't know if she would wear it or not. This is just wonderful," said Mrs. Herring. As Mrs. Ford started to leave the dedication site for the limosine which would whisk her back to the Patrick airport, she passed in front of the VIP seating section where Mrs.



BETTY FORD

People

Section D Thursday, February 26, 1976



Amy Clark

TODAY Women's Editor

Betty's Visit Truly Special

With the eyes and ears plus the TV cameras, tape recorders and pens and notebooks of 56 members of the national and local news media recording her every movement, every whisper and word, one wonders how First Lady Betty Ford manages to look as calm and composed as she obviously

211 *Ford Backers Head For Sunshine, Votes*

By Maury DeJonge

President Gerald R. Ford's primary campaign in Florida will take on a home town flavor Feb. 21-22 as his supporters plug for votes in what is considered a crucial state.

Peter Secchia, local business executive and close friend of the President, said a charter flight of campaign volunteers will leave Kent County Airport the morning of Feb. 21 and fly directly to Orlando. The trip is being arranged by Friends of the First Family.

"We are getting great response from persons who want to go," Secchia said. "At this point we don't know exactly how many persons will make the trip, and the type of aircraft will depend on the number who participate."

2/13



Ford Flight Plans Snowballing

By Maury DeJonge

A snowball fight in Orlando, Fla., and the possibility of participation by President Ford's three half-brothers will highlight a visit by local residents Feb. 21-22 to the Sunshine State.

Purpose of the trip is to drum up support for

meet the Grand Rapids delegation in Orlando.

Another special guest who has signed up for the trip is Lt. Gov. James Damman.

To keep the cost down, some travelers will take sleeping bags and sleep on the beach or in

UP-033

(PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY)

SARASOTA, FLA. (UPD) -- PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SUNDAY CONFIRMED PRESIDENT FORD WORE A BULLET-PROOF VEST DURING HIS 15-HOUR CAMPAIGN SWING IN FLORIDA SATURDAY DURING WHICH HE MINGLED FREELY WITH CROWDS.

ASKED BY REPORTERS WHETHER FORD WAS WEARING A BULLET-PROOF VEST DURING HIS POLITICAL FORAYS FROM MIAMI TO SARASOTA SATURDAY, NESSEN SAID, "THE WHITE HOUSE NEVER TALKS ABOUT THOSE THINGS."

THEN HE SMILED AND TOLD REPORTERS, "THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS A CONFIRMING GRIN."

-0-

MIAMI (UPD) -- A PUERTO RICAN WHO SAID HE ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO SHOOT PRESIDENT FORD ON SATURDAY HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THREATENING THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT.

FELIPE PORRATA, 36, WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY MIAMI POLICE AFTER HE SLASHED HIS WRISTS IN AN APPARENT SUICIDE ATTEMPT. MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY SAID PORRATA IS UNEMPLOYED AND HAS BEEN LIVING IN MIAMI SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM A FLORIDA MENTAL HOSPITAL LAST YEAR.

UPI 03-01 10:41 AES

RW

BETTY FORD-FLORIDA

WASHINGTON (AP) -- BETTY FORD HAS PREPARED A GET-OUT-THE-VOTE RADIO TAPE RECORDING FOR USE BEFORE THE FLORIDA PRIMARY TUESDAY.

PRESS SECRETARY SHEILA RABB WEIDENFELD SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE IS MAKING IT AVAILABLE TO ANY FLORIDA RADIO STATION WANTING TO USE IT.

MRS. FORD HAS CAMPAIGNED IN FLORIDA FOR THE PRESIDENT, BUT MRS. WEIDENFELD SAID THE TAPED RECORDING IS IN THE NATURE OF A "PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT" BECAUSE IT MAKES AN APPEAL TO GET OUT THE VOTE, RATHER THAN URGING A VOTE FOR HER HUSBAND.

THE TEXT SAYS: "THIS IS BETTY FORD. 1976 IS THE NATIONS'S 200TH BIRTHDAY. THE CITIZENS OF FLORIDA CAN CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY BY VOTING IN THE IMPORTANT 1976 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX. PLEASE VOTE NEXT THURSDAY FOR YOURSELF AND FOR AMERICA."

UP-038

(POLITICS)

NAPLES, FLA. (UPD -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD IS SPENDING A "PRIVATE DAY" WITH FRIENDS ALONG FLORIDA'S LOWER GULF COAST TODAY BEFORE RESUMING HER TOUR OF THE STATE IN MIAMI FRIDAY AND MEETING HER HUSBAND THIS WEEKEND.

MRS. FORD, SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS, TELLING STORIES AND RECEIVING WARM RECEPTIONS ALONG THE WAY, MET SENIOR CITIZENS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN ALONG BOTH COASTS THURSDAY AND SCARCELY MENTIONED POLITICS.

THE FIRST LADY WAS GREETED BY A CROWD OF ABOUT 4,000 AT THE NEARBY PORT CHARLOTTE CULTURAL CENTER. SHE SPOKE AT A CANCER DISCUSSION MEETING AND TOLD OF HER OWN FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER. SHE SAID HER OPERATION REPRESENTED "ONE OF THE GREATEST BREAKTHROUGHS IN MODERN MEDICINE. WE NEED TO BE EXAMINED AND WE MUST TAKE CARE OF IT BEFORE IT TAKES CARE OF US."

SHE ALSO STOPPED TO OFFER WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO A PHYSICAL FITNESS CLASS ATTENDED MOSTLY BY SENIOR CITIZENS.

EARLIER ALONG FLORIDA'S EAST COAST, THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE DEDICATED THE DR. W. J. CREEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MELBOURNE WHERE SHE WAS PRESENTED FLOWERS AND GIFTS BY CHILDREN.

MRS. FORD WILL FLY TO MIAMI FRIDAY TO ADDRESS A UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI DINNER. SHE WILL JOIN HER HUSBAND IN MIAMI SATURDAY ON THE PRESIDENT'S SECOND CAMPAIGN TOUR OF THE STATE.

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UP-032

(FORD)

(BY HELEN THOMAS)

WASHINGTON (UPD -- PRESIDENT FORD, CONFIDENT OF VICTORY, PLANNED TO WATCH THE EARLY NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY RETURNS ON TELEVISION TUESDAY EVENING AND GO TO BED WITHOUT ISSUING ANY PERSONAL COMMENT ON THEM, SPOKESMEN SAID.

ONE SPOKESMAN SAID FORD EXPECTS TO BEAT RONALD REAGAN IN THE NATION'S FIRST PRIMARY AND BELIEVES THAT SUCCESS "WILL START HIM ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY" AT THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATING CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY THIS SUMMER.

HE SAID FORD, AFTER A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL DAY IN THE WHITE HOUSE, PLANNED TO SPEND THE EVENING WITH DAUGHTER SUSAN, 18, WATCHING THE RETURNS ON TELEVISION IN THE FAMILY QUARTERS.

MRS. FORD LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE TUESDAY AFTERNOON ON A SOLO CAMPAIGN TRIP DESIGNED TO DRUM UP VOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT IN FLORIDA'S MARCH 9 PRIMARY.

PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN TOLD REPORTERS IT WAS UNLIKELY FORD WOULD ISSUE ANY STATEMENT ON THE NEW HAMPSHIRE RESULTS, "WIN OR LOSE," TUESDAY NIGHT.

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FORD HELD STAFF MEETINGS TUESDAY AND THEN CONFERRED WITH FRANCOIS-XAVIER ORTOLI, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, ON U.S.-EUROPEAN TRADE AND POLITICAL RELATIONS.

ON ANOTHER ISSUE, NESSEN SAID "THIS ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY" IN FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON'S TRIP TO CHINA. RABBI BARUCH KORFF, A NIXON CONFIDANT AND LEGAL FUND RAISER, SAID TUESDAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD URGED NIXON TO MAKE THE TRIP.

FORD FLIES TO FLORIDA SATURDAY TO BEGIN HIS SECOND ROUND OF CAMPAIGNING TO WIN THAT PRIMARY.

UPI 02-24 03:09 PES

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(FORD)

(BY HELEN THOMAS)

WASHINGTON (UPD -- PRESIDENT FORD, CONFIDENT OF VICTORY, PLANNED TO WATCH THE EARLY NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY RETURNS ON TELEVISION TUESDAY EVENING AND GO TO BED WITHOUT ISSUING ANY PERSONAL COMMENT ON THEM, SPOKESMEN SAID.

ONE SPOKESMAN SAID FORD EXPECTS TO BEAT RONALD REAGAN IN THE NATION'S FIRST PRIMARY AND BELIEVES THAT SUCCESS "WILL START HIM ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY" AT THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATING CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY THIS SUMMER.

HE SAID FORD, AFTER A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL DAY IN THE WHITE HOUSE, PLANNED TO SPEND THE EVENING WITH DAUGHTER SUSAN, 18, WATCHING THE RETURNS ON TELEVISION IN THE FAMILY QUARTERS.

MRS. FORD LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE TUESDAY AFTERNOON ON A SOLO CAMPAIGN TRIP DESIGNED TO DRUM UP VOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT IN FLORIDA'S MARCH 9 PRIMARY.

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FORD WILL SWITCH HATS FREQUENTLY NEXT WEEK, DOFFING AND DONNING HIS CANDIDATE AND PRESIDENTIAL BONNETS. HE WILL OPEN HIS WEEK SUNDAY EVENING WITH AN ADDRESS TO A COMBINED CONVENTION OF TWO BIG PROTESTANT GROUPS, THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS AT THE SHOREHAM AMERICANA. ON MONDAY, HE IS TO SPEAK AT THE OPENING OF A TWO-DAY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE AT THE STATLER HILTON AND THEN ENTERTAIN THE GOVERNORS THAT EVENING AT A WHITE HOUSE DINNER.

IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, THE PRESIDENT WILL CONTINUE HIS LIAISON WITH CAPITOL HILL ON ISSUES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, WITH INTELLIGENCE, THE ECONOMY AND FOREIGN AID IN THE FOREFRONT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A NEW ENERGY MESSAGE WILL BE SENT TO CONGRESS AROUND MID-WEEK.

IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FORD HAS ARRANGED TO MEET TUESDAY WITH PRESIDENT FRANCOIS-XAVIER ORTOLI OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES COMMISSION WHO WILL BE VISITING WASHINGTON. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ALSO WILL MEET WITH HENRY KISSINGER SOON AFTER THE SECRETARY OF STATE RETURNS FROM HIS LATIN AMERICAN TOUR. A FINAL DECISION IS EXPECTED SHORTLY ON THE SELECTION OF A NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH FORMER PENNSYLVANIA GOV. WILLIAM SCRANTON REPORTEDLY IN LINE FOR THE POST. FORD ALSO MAY DECIDE ON A NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE, BETTY, WILL PRECEDE FORD TO FLORIDA, LEAVING FOR THE SUNSHINE STATE ON TUESDAY FOR A WEEK-LONG CAMPAIGN SWING. SUSAN, WHO CAMPAIGNED FOR HER FATHER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, IS NOT EXPECTED TO MAKE ANY APPEARANCES IN FLORIDA, BUT WILL RETURN TO HER CLASSES.

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FORD -FLORIDA

BY FRANCES LEWINE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT FORD WILL MAKE HIS SECOND POLITICAL CAMPAIGN VISIT TO FLORIDA THIS WEEKEND WITH PLANS FOR PUBLIC APPEARANCES AND A MOTORCADE THAT WILL TAKE HIM TO MORE THAN HALF DOZEN CITIES.

HIS WIFE, BETTY, WILL BE CAMPAIGNING ON HER OWN STARTING TUESDAY IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE AND WILL JOIN UP WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR THE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY TOUR.

PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN ANNOUNCED THE LATEST CAMPAIGN SWING, WHICH COMES EARLIER THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED. THIS RAISED QUESTIONS OF WHETHER FORD STILL MIGHT HAVE TIME FOR A THIRD SWNG INTO FLORIDA, WHERE THE PRIMARY CONTEST IS A CRUCIAL ONE FO THE PRESIDENT IN HIS BATTLE WITH FORMER CALIFORNIA GOV. RONALD REAGAN.

BUT NESSEN SAID, "THERE ARE NO PLANS I KNOW OF TO GO BACK AFTER THIS TRIP." THE FLORIDA PRIMARY IS MARCH 9.

FORD WILL FLY TO MIAMI EARLY SATURDAY MORNING AND THEN GO TO WEST PALM BEACH FOR APPEARANCES THERE. HE WILL MAKE A MOTORCADE RUN FROM WEST PALM BEACH TO FORT LAUDERDALE AND SPEND SATURDAY EVENING IN SARASOTA.

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, THE PRESIDENT WILL GO TO TAMPA AND RETURN TO WASHINGTON SUNDAY EVENING.

MRS. FORD IS MAKING HER MOST AMBITIOUS CAMPAIGN TRIP INTO FLORIDA IN ADVANCE OF HER HUSBAND. HER PRESS SECRETARY, SHIELA RABB WEIDENFELD, SAID MRS. FORD WILL GO TO JACKSONVILLE TUESDAY FOR A RECEPTION SPONSORED BY THE PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE THERE AND WILL ATTEND A BICENTENNIAL "STAND UP FOR AMERICA" RALLY.

SHE WILL BE IN MELBOURNE WEDNESDAY FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE DR. W. J. CREEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THAT HAS REMAINED UNDEDICATED SINCE IT OPENED SEVERAL YEARS AGO IN A LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOOD. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER STOP FOR THE FIRST LADY AT A SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTER IN PORT CHARLOTTE ANDSHE WILL GO TO NAPLES FOR A PRIVATE DAY ON THURSDAY, INCLUDING VISITS WITH FRIENDS THERE.

IN MIAMI ON FRIDAY NIGHT MRS. FORD WILL ATTEND A FOUNDERS DAY DINNER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI. SHE'LL TEAM UP WITH FORD WHEN HE ARRIVES, BUT MAY ALSO HAVE SOME SEPARATE APPEARANCES.

MRS. WEIDENFELD SAID THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THE FIRST LADY WOULD DO SOME DOOR-TO-DOOR CANVASSING ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT IN SOUTH MIAMI.

DETAILS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S ITINERARY WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER, NESSEN SAID.

UP-072

(FORD TO FLORIDA)

WASHINGTON (UPD) -- PRESIDENT FORD WILL FLY TO FLORIDA THIS WEEKEND FOR HIS SECOND ROUND OF CAMPAIGNING BEFORE THE STATE'S MARCH 9 PRIMARY, THE WHITE HOUSE SAID TODAY.

PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID FORD, HOPING FOR A CRITICAL VICTORY OVER GOP CHALLENGER RONALD REAGAN IN THE FLORIDA CONTEST, WOULD VISIT MIAMI, WEST PALM BEACH, FT. LAUDERDALE, SARASOTA AND TAMPA BUT GAVE NO DETAILS OF THE ITINERARY FOR THE TWO-DAY VISIT.

FORD MADE HIS FIRST CAMPAIGN TOUR OF FLORIDA ON FEB. 13-14 AND NESSEN SAID "THERE ARE NO PLANS NOW" FOR A THIRD VISIT BEFORE THE PRIMARY.

AS OUTLINED BY NESSEN, FORD'S PLANS ARE TO FLY SATURDAY FROM WASHINGTON TO MIAMI AND THEN GO NORTH TO WEST PALM BEACH BEFORE TRAVELING SOUTH AGAIN IN A MOTORCADE TO FT. LAUDERDALE.

NESSEN SAID FORD WILL BE IN SARASOTA SATURDAY NIGHT AND GO TO TAMPA SUNDAY AFTERNOON BEFORE FLYING BACK TO WASHINGTON IN THE EVENING.

UPI 02-23 12:56 PES

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- BETTY FORD WILL BE DRUMMING UP VOTES FOR HER HUSBAND IN FLORIDA TONIGHT WHEN THE RETURNS COME IN FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY.

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KEENE, N.H. (UPD) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD WILL BEGIN A WEEK-LONG
CAMPAIGN SWING IN FLORIDA, STARTING TUESDAY, HER PRESS SECRETARY
ANNOUNCED TODAY. -0-

SHEILA WEIDENFELD SAID MRS. FORD WILL FIRST APPEAR AT THE SERTOMA
CLUB'S "STAND UP FOR AMERICA RALLY" IN JACKSONVILLE TUESDAY NIGHT.
MRS. FORD ACCOMPANIED HER HUSBAND TO NEW HAMPSHIRE TODAY FOR A
LAST ROUND OF CAMPAIGNING BEFORE THE TUESDAY PRIMARY. SHE HAD NO
SEPARATE SCHEDULE.

FORD, WHOSE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WILL PAY FOR HIS WIFE'S FIRST MAJOR
CAMPAIGN TRIP, IS EXPECTED TO JOIN HIS WIFE IN FLORIDA. -0-

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BETTY FORD

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. (AP) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD WAS SO HAPPY ABOUT HER HUSBAND'S VICTORY IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY SHE AWAKENED HIM WITH A LATE-NIGHT CONGRATULATORY TELEPHONE CALL -- AND HE DIDN'T MIND.

"MARVELOUS," SAID MRS. FORD TODAY WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE RESULTS. "I TALKED TO MY HUSBAND LAST NIGHT. HE ALREADY HAD GONE TO BED. I WOKE HIM BUT HE DIDN'T MIND."

I FORD WON 51 PER CENT OF THE REPUBLICAN VOTES CAST TUESDAY TO WIN OVER CHALLENGER RONALD REAGAN.

MRS. FORD WAS CAMPAIGNING HERE FOR THE PRESIDENT IN ADVANCE OF FLORIDA'S MARCH 9 PRIMARY.

Ø2-25-76 13:3ØEST

WIFE IS A SISTER OF THE LATE JOHN KENNEDY.

-- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD BEGINS A WEEK-LONG CAMPAIGN SWING IN FLORIDA STARTING TUESDAY.

SHEILA WEIDENFELD, MRS. FORD'S PRESS SECRETARY, SAID IT WOULD BE THE FIRST LADY'S FIRST MAJOR CAMPAIGN TRIP. IT WILL BEGIN WITH A "STAND UP FOR AMERICA" RALLY IN JACKSONVILLE TUESDAY NIGHT.

-- THE CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS SAID THURSDAY A MAIL POLL OF ABOUT 100,000 PERSONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY SHOWS REAGAN AND DEMOCRAT GEORGE WALLACE BY FAR THE MOST POPULAR PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS.

RESULTS OF THE BALLOTING AS OF FEB. 5 ALSO SHOWED 65 PER CENT WOULD VOTE FOR A THIRD PARTY OR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE IF NEITHER MAJOR PARTY NOMINATES A CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE CAUCUS, HEADED BY NEW HAMPSHIRE GOV. MELDRIM THOMSON, SAID IT SENT OUT 500,000 BALLOTS AND GOT BACK ABOUT ONE FIFTH.

-- CARTER SAID THURSDAY NIGHT AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN DENIED THE RIGHT TO HELP MAKE FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS BECAUSE OF THE "MYTH OF THE FOREIGN POLICY EXPERT."

"THERE IS A DANGEROUSLY FALSE IDEA THAT FOREIGN POLICY IS AN EXOTIC, SPECIALIZED SUBJECT THAT NORMAL PEOPLE SHOULD KEEP THEIR NOSES OUT OF," CARTER SAID.

CARTER SAID FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED BY "HARD WORK, COMMON SENSE, GOOD ADVICE AND THE WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER PROBLEM."

UPI 02-20 10:36 AES

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CAMPAIGN BRIEFS

L.A. Times 2/25/76

Betty Ford in Florida

From Times Wire Services

A friendly crowd of 100 people and a high school band greeted First Lady Betty Ford when she arrived at Jacksonville, Fla., International Airport to campaign for her husband. Mrs. Ford was making her first campaign trip alone. President Ford will join her Friday in Miami for two days of campaigning for the March 9 primary election.

A three-judge federal panel ruled that the name of Margaret Wright of Los Angeles must appear on the ballot in Vermont's presidential primary election next Tuesday.

CORRESPONDENTS:

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UPI 02-20 03:03 PES

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FLA. PRIMARY

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RONALD REAGAN SAYS HE'LL BE PLEASED IF THE RESULTS IN FLORIDA'S MARCH 9 PRIMARY ARE AS CLOSE AS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, WHERE HE RAN A CLOSE SECOND TO PRESIDENT FORD.

THE FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR, ON A THREE-DAY CAMPAIGN SWING THROUGH CENTRAL FLORIDA, TOLD A CROWD OF 10,000 THURSDAY IN ST. PETERSBURG THAT THE TIGHT NEW HAMPSHIRE CONTEST "INDICATES THAT VICTORY CAN BE OURS.

"I CAME AWAY GREATLY SATISFIED WITH WHAT HAPPENED THERE," HE SAID.

REAGAN WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT SUN CITY, A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTH OF TAMPA, TODAY. HE THEN PLANS A LUNCHEON SPEECH IN TAMPA AND AN ADDRESS TO TAMPA CIVIC AND BUSINESS LEADERS TONIGHT.

FLORIDA CAMPAIGN MANAGER L.E. "TOMMY" THOMAS, WHO ONCE PREDICTED THAT REAGAN WOULD CAPTURE FLORIDA 2-TO-1, SAID AFTER THE RALLY THAT 55 PER CENT WOULD BE A LANDSLIDE. LESS THAN 50 PER CENT WOULD BE DAMAGING, HE SAID, AND UNDER 40 PER CENT DISASTROUS.

THE MOSTLY ELDERLY RALLY CROWD, GATHERED UNDER OVERCAST SKIES IN A DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG PARK, WAS DAMPENED BY A BRIEF SHOWER. ON A SUNNY DAY ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, FORD DREW ABOUT 15,000 TO THE SAME PARK.

TWO YOUNG WOMEN WERE ARRESTED DURING REAGAN'S RALLY.

ONE, WHO MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED REAGAN BY SHOUTING "REAGAN, LET ME TALK" SEVERAL TIMES, WAS CHARGED WITH OBSTRUCTING A POLICE OFFICER AFTER BALKING AT BEING USHERED AWAY FROM THE AREA. SHE WAS LATER RELEASED ON \$25 BOND.

THE OTHER WAS CHARGED WITH CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON AFTER POLICE SAID THEY FOUND AN EIGHT-INCH LEAD PIPE IN HER POCKETBOOK DURING A ROUTINE SEARCH. SHE POSTED A \$50 BOND.

WHILE REAGAN WAS HUNTING VOTES IN THE TAMPA BAY AREA, FIRST LADY BETTY FORD WAS RELAXING ON MARCO ISLAND, ALSO ON FLORIDA'S WEST COAST.

SHE ARRIVED IN FLORIDA TUESDAY AND PLANS TO JOIN HER HUSBAND THIS WEEKEND.

FORD IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN HIS SECOND FLORIDA SWING SATURDAY WITH AN APPEARANCE IN MIAMI. HE'LL THEN FLY TO PALM BEACH AND MOTORCADE 40 MILES FROM PALM BEACH TO FORT LAUDERDALE.

UP-038

(POLITICS)

NAPLES, FLA. (UPD) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD IS SPENDING A "PRIVATE DAY" WITH FRIENDS ALONG FLORIDA'S LOWER GULF COAST TODAY BEFORE RESUMING HER TOUR OF THE STATE IN MIAMI FRIDAY AND MEETING HER HUSBAND THIS WEEKEND.

MRS. FORD, SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS, TELLING STORIES AND RECEIVING WARM RECEPTIONS ALONG THE WAY, MET SENIOR CITIZENS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN ALONG BOTH COASTS THURSDAY AND SCARCELY MENTIONED POLITICS.

THE FIRST LADY WAS GREETED BY A CROWD OF ABOUT 4,000 AT THE NEARBY PORT CHARLOTTE CULTURAL CENTER. SHE SPOKE AT A CANCER DISCUSSION MEETING AND TOLD OF HER OWN FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER. SHE SAID HER OPERATION REPRESENTED "ONE OF THE GREATEST BREAKTHROUGHS IN MODERN MEDICINE. WE NEED TO BE EXAMINED AND WE MUST TAKE CARE OF IT BEFORE IT TAKES CARE OF US."

SHE ALSO STOPPED TO OFFER WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO A PHYSICAL FITNESS CLASS ATTENDED MOSTLY BY SENIOR CITIZENS.

EARLIER ALONG FLORIDA'S EAST COAST, THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE DEDICATED THE DR. W. J. CREEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MELBOURNE WHERE SHE WAS PRESENTED FLOWERS AND GIFTS BY CHILDREN.

MRS. FORD WILL FLY TO MIAMI FRIDAY TO ADDRESS A UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI DINNER. SHE WILL JOIN HER HUSBAND IN MIAMI SATURDAY ON THE PRESIDENT'S SECOND CAMPAIGN TOUR OF THE STATE.

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FYI - Return

(NIXON PARDON)

(BY WILLIAM CLAYTON)

WASHINGTON (UPD -- A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE THURSDAY REJECTED A PROPOSAL TO DETERMINE IF PRESIDENT FORD TOLD THE FULL STORY TO CONGRESS ABOUT HIS DECISION TO PARDON FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON.

ONE OPPONENT CALLED THE PARDON ISSUE A "DEAD HORSE."

THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED 4 TO 3 A MOTION BY REP. CHARLES WIGGINS, R-CALIF., TO TURN DOWN THE INVESTIGATION REQUEST MADE BY REP. ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, D-N. J.

MS. HOLTZMAN SAID AN ARTICLE IN THE WASHINGTON POST RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER NIXON ADVISERS ALEXANDER HAIG AND LEONARD GARMENT HAD URGED FORD TO PARDON NIXON BEFORE FORD MADE HIS DECISION.

IF THE POST ARTICLE WAS CORRECT, "THEN THE TESTIMONY BY PRESIDENT FORD TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE WAS NOT COMPLETE AND PERHAPS NOT CANDID," MS. HOLTZMAN SAID.

"THIS WHOLE THING REEKS OF POLITICS," WIGGINS SAID. "WE HAVE FLOGGED THIS DEAD HORSE ENOUGH."

EVEN IF FORD DID NOT MENTION, OR DID NOT REMEMBER PLEAS FROM HAIG AND GARMENT, THE QUESTION "IS TOTALLY IMMATERIAL" TO THE BIG ISSUES RAISED BY THE PARDON: WHETHER FORD HAD LEGAL AUTHORITY TO PARDON NIXON, AND WHETHER IN A DEAL, FORD AGREED TO THE PARDON IF NIXON WOULD RESIGN, WIGGINS SAID.

"AT SOME POINT, THIS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO SAY, 'ENOUGH.' AT SOME POINT, WE HAVE TO DO IT. I SAY THAT POINT IS NOW," WIGGINS SAID.

REPS. JAMES MANN, D-S. C., MARTIN RUSSO, D-ILL., AND HENRY HYDE, R-ILL., VOTED WITH WIGGINS ON HIS MOTION TO KILL MS. HOLTZMAN'S REQUEST.

REPS. EDWARD MEZVINSKY, D-IOWA, AND WILLIAM HUNGATE, D-MO., CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, VOTED WITH MS. HOLTZMAN.

MS. HOLTZMAN SAID FORD TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE IN OCTOBER OF 1974 THAT HE DID NOT DECIDE ON THE PARDON UNTIL SEPTEMBER. BUT, SHE SAID, THE POST STORY SAID THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT FORD HAD ASSURED HAIG IN AUGUST THAT HE WOULD PARDON NIXON.

(CAMPAIGN FUNDS)

(BY ARNOLD B. SAWISLAK)

FYI

- Return to Rusty

WASHINGTON (UPD -- THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION THURSDAY DELAYED ORDERING CAMPAIGN SUBSIDIES FOR ELLEN MCCORMACK'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, BUT INDICATED THE ANTIABORTION DEMOCRAT WOULD BE APPROVED NEXT WEDNESDAY.

THE COMMISSION GRANTED A REQUEST BY CHIEF COUNSEL JOHN MURPHY FOR MORE TIME TO STUDY LEGAL OBJECTIONS TO THE MCCORMACK CANDIDACY. HE SAID IT APPEARED THE NEW YORK WOMAN'S REQUEST FOR FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS WAS IN ORDER, BUT HE WANTED TO CHECK LEGAL QUESTIONS.

MRS. MCCORMACK CLAIMS TO HAVE RAISED \$5,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$250 OR LESS IN 20 STATES, THUS QUALIFYING FOR AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF FEDERAL CAMPAIGN SUBSIDIES.

FEC AUDITORS DISALLOWED CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WERE NOT MADE DIRECTLY TO THE CANDIDATE OR HER CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, BUT A QUESTION REMAINED ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF FUNDS RAISED IN RESPONSE TO AN ADVERTISEMENT IN SAN DIEGO, CALIF., THE COMMISSION STAFF INDICATED.

BUT MURPHY SAID MRS. MCCORMACK PROBABLY WOULD STILL HAVE THE REQUIRED \$5,000 FROM CALIFORNIA EVEN IF THE SAN DIEGO PROCEEDS WERE DISALLOWED.

IF THE FEC FINDS MRS. MCCORMACK ELIGIBLE AT ITS NEXT MEETING FEB. 25, SHE COULD GET A \$100,000 FEDERAL SUBSIDY BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

THE FEC TODAY APPROVED PAYMENT OF ANOTHER \$92,175 IN CAMPAIGN SUBSIDIES, RAISING TO \$7,873,720 THE AMOUNT PAID OUT TO 12 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES THIS YEAR.

THE NEW PAYMENTS WERE \$31,573 TO SEN. BIRCH BAYH, D-IND.; \$17,654 TO FORMER GOV. JIMMY CARTER OF GEORGIA; \$11,654 TO FORMER SEN. FRED HARRIS OF OKLAHOMA; \$13,398 TO GOV. MILTON SHAPP OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND \$17,790 TO REP. MORRIS UDALL, D-ARIZ.

RW
URGENT
NIXON INQUIRY
BY JANET STAIHAR

FYI - Return

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY DECIDED NOT TO CONDUCT A FURTHER INQUIRY INTO PRESIDENT FORD'S PARDON OF RICHARD M. NIXON.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE VOTED 4 TO 3 TO TABLE A MOTION BY IREP. ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, D-N.Y., WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THE PANEL'S STAFF TO INTERVIEW PHILIP W. BUCHEN, FORD'S COUNSEL; ALEXANDER HAIG, NIXON'S CHIEF OF STAFF, AND "OTHER APPROPRIATE PERSONS" REGARDING THE PRESIDENTIAL PARDON.

HOLTZMAN CALLED FOR THE INQUIRY ON THE BASIS OF A NEWS STORY WHICH APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST.

SHE SAID THE POST ARTICLE SUGGESTED THAT HAIG, ON OR ABOUT AUG. 28, 1974, ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO PERSUADE PRESIDENT FORD TO PARDON NIXON.

NIXON RESIGNED ON AUG. 9 AND WAS PARDONED FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE WATERGATE SCANDAL ON SEPT. 8, 1974.

IF THE POST ARTICLE IS TRUE, SHE SAID, "THIS REPORT INDICATES THAT PRESIDENT FORD, CONTRARY TO HIS REPRESENTATION TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND TO THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, WAS NOT CANDID ABOUT THE FACTS SURROUNDING HIS DECISION TO ISSUE THE PARDON."

WASHINGTON ADD NIXON INQUIRY (N62)

FYI - Return

FORD APPEARED BEFORE THE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCT. 17, 1974, TO RECOUNT EVENTS SURROUNDING THE NIXON PARDON.

IN HIS TESTIMONY, FORD SAID: "AT NO TIME AFTER I BECAME PRESIDENT ON AUG. 9, 1974, WAS THE SUBJECT OF A PARDON FOR RICHARD M. NIXON RAISED BY THE FORMER PRESIDENT OR BY ANYONE REPRESENTING HIM."

REP. HOLTZMAN SAID IF THE REPORTED URGINGS BY HAIG WERE CORRECT, THEN FORD DID NOT TELL THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALL THE FACTS.

I SHE ALSO SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE POST STORY, HAIG CONVEYED TO I FORD THE CONTENTS OF A MEMORANDUM WRITTEN BY FORMER NIXON COUNSEL I LEONARD GARMENT THAT INCLUDED THE IMPLICATION THAT NIXON WOULD COMMIT SUICIDE IF HE WERE NOT PARDONED.

THE POST SAID THAT ACCORDING TO ITS SOURCES, THE MEMO INDICATED THAT NIXON'S MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION COULD NOT STAND THE CONTINUED THREAT OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND IMPLIED THAT UNLESS HE WERE PARDONED, NIXON MIGHT TAKE HIS OWN LIFE.

I IF, IN FACT, THIS INFORMATION WERE PRESENTED TO FORD BY HAIG OR I ANYONE ELSE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE, REP. HOLTZMAN SAID.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHARLES E. WIGGINS, R-CALIF., ARGUED THAT THE ISSUE OF OPENING ANOTHER INQUIRY INTO NIXON'S PARDON "REEKS OF POLITICS."

"WE HAVE FLOGGED THIS HORSE, THIS DEAD HORSE, ENOUGH," HE SAID. "AT SOME POINT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS GOING TO HAVE TO SAY ENOUGH, AND I SAY THE TIME IS NOW."

I REP. MARTIN A. RUSSO, D-ILL., WHO VOTED AGAINST REP. HOLTZMAN, I RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN A PROSECUTOR FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND HE WANTED I TO SEE ALL THE EVIDENCE BEFORE DISPATCHING A SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF ON I THE BASIS OF THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE NEWSPAPER TO LEARN MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE HAIG INVOLVEMENT.

I BUT THAT IDEA RECEIVED NO OUTWARD SUPPORT FROM THE REST OF THE I PANEL.

I CHAIRMAN WILLIAM L. HUNGATE, D-MO., WHO AGREED WITH THE I CONGRESSWOMAN'S REQUEST, TOLD A REPORTER AFTERWARDS THAT "IF THE I INQUIRY IS NOT DEAD, IT IS EXTREMELY ILL."