

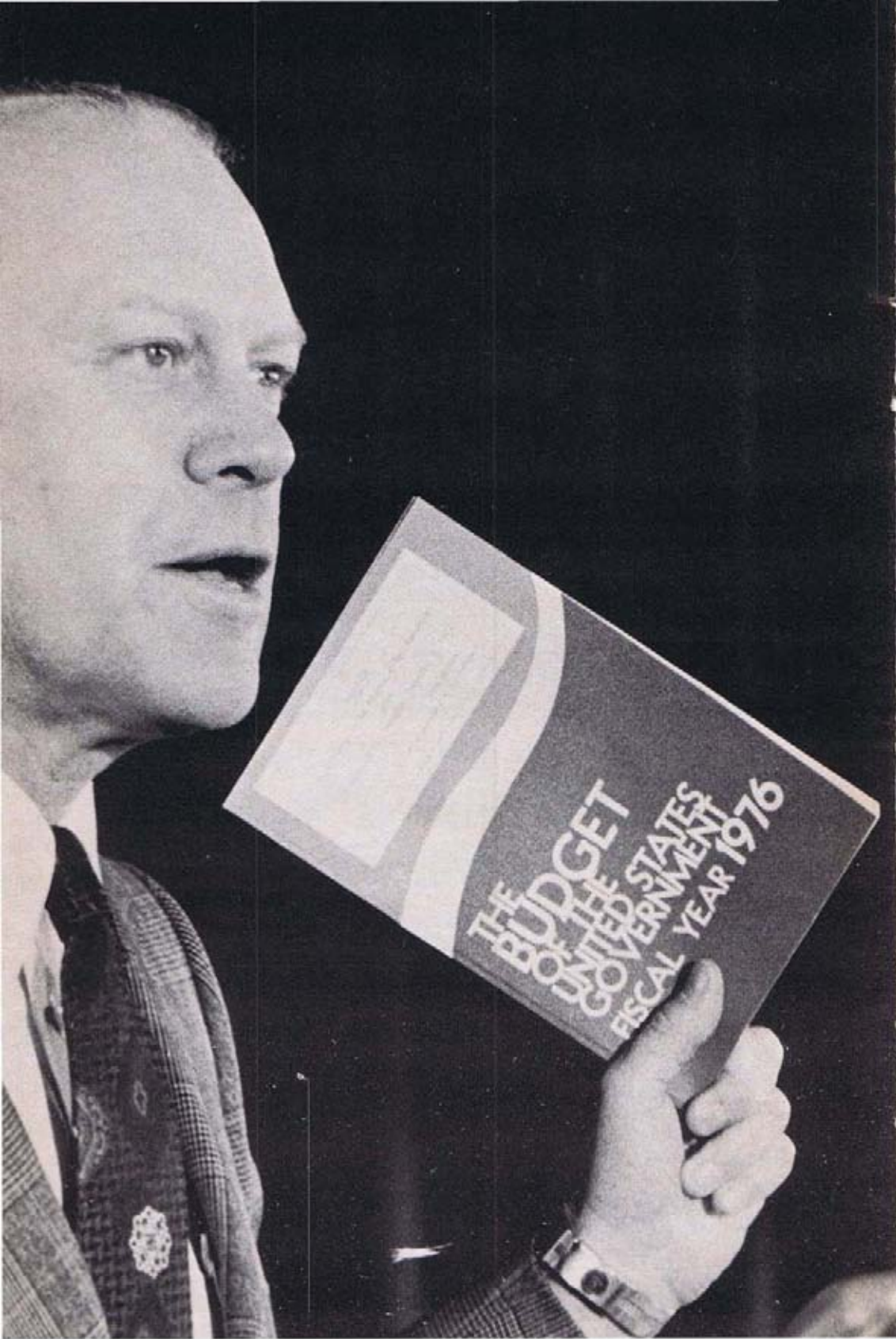
U.P.I.

GERALD FORD AND HIS DOMESTIC POLICY

Gary Allen, a graduate of Stanford, is author of *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, *The Rockefeller File*, *Kissinger: Secret Side Of The Secretary Of State*, and *Jimmy Carter/Jimmy Carter*. Mr. Allen is an AMERICAN OPINION Contributing Editor.

■ THE 1976 edition of the quadrennial carnival of buncombe known as the Presidential election is in full swing. Like all good carnie men, the candidates know what the public is buying this autumn and are gearing their pitches to suit the customers. The boys with the smiles are well aware that the public has had it up to the nostrils with meddling politicians

and bully-boy bureaucrats. But both Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, like the experienced tent men they are, know that the people can usually be conned by the old shell game. "Now you see it, now you don't." Both of these midway barkers are experienced at such prestidigitation. The trick is to appear to be opposed to Big Government in order to get in posi-



America had its first \$100 billion Budget in 1962. In 1968, the year Richard Nixon was elected, federal spending was \$183 billion. But President Gerald Ford has now added \$100 billion to federal spending in just two years. In his first eleven months in office Mr. Ford added 63,945 new bureaucrats to the payroll.

tion to lead it. While Ford has been working the big tent, Carter has hawked his peanuts before the side-show crowd.

Last month, AMERICAN OPINION reviewed the character and background of Jimmy Carter. Our subject now is the accidental President who stumbled into the Oval Office and has been stumbling ever since. The "Liberal" and Establishment media are constantly telling us that Gerald Ford is the most conservative man to occupy the White House since Calvin Coolidge — and maybe since Grover Cleveland. Cynics may observe that this is akin to being the most virtuous girl in the home for unwed mothers.

President Ford is the product of a Rockefeller-promoted Constitutional Amendment (the Twenty-Fifth) that enables the Executive to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice President of the United States with the advice and consent of the House and the Senate. Raised to that position by Richard Nixon, fate and Mr. Nixon's enemies soon propelled the Representative from Grand Rapids into the White House. For twenty-five years, Ford had represented two Michigan counties in Congress. The largest vote he had ever obtained was 131,461. Now he represents more than 210 million people without benefit of a plebiscite. Our thirty-eighth Pres-

ident never ran for national office, never served as mayor of a city, governor of a state, or member of the U.S. Senate, and he has never so much as met a payroll.

The Ford career in Congress was somewhat less than spectacular. While his voting record was generally good on domestic issues, the Manhattan Establishment could always count on his loyalty in international affairs. *Time* of August 19, 1974, reveals that Ford's career was fueled from the start by the internationalist Left: "In 1948 he was given his chance. Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, grand old man of the G.O.P., had made a dramatic switch from isolationism to internationalism and was annoyed that the Republican Congressman in the Fifth District, Bartel J. Jonkman, did not convert along with him. Vandenberg encouraged Ford to challenge Jonkman in the Republican primary."

There was apparently ample reason for the Left to believe Ford could be counted on to do what he was told. In his friendly biography, *Gerald Ford And The Future Of The Presidency*, J.F. terHorst tells us that Ford was also approached by "Liberal" Democrats to run in the primary against Jonkman. According to terHorst: "Among the Democrats who took up Ford's cause were Leonard Woodcock,



Advocates of the New World Order knew they could trust Ford. He had three times been invited by Prince Bernhard (l) to attend the secret Bilderberg meetings with top international conspirators and was a member of the Warren Commission (r) to cover up the conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination.

then a regional representative of the CIO and now president of the United Auto Workers" Woodcock, a longtime lieutenant of Walter ("Yours for a Soviet America") Reuther, is now the top labor leader in the Rockefellers' conspiratorial Council on Foreign Relations.

Why were the Republican internationalists and Democrat radicals out to scuttle Bartel Jonkman? Mr. ter-Horst informs us: "In Washington, Jonkman had reached a level of considerable seniority on the House Foreign Affairs Committee." Indeed, Ford himself explained it this way: "Jonkman the isolationist had become the darling of the *Chicago Tribune*. He really began the whole McCarthy era in a way. Long before McCarthy picked it up, Jonkman was speaking out about the Communists in the State Department."

Enter from stage left the handsome, smiling, ambitious (but not too bright) Jerry Ford, to dispatch the troublemaker to political Valhalla. If one believes in such accidents, it

might be said that the accidental President began his political career as the accidental Congressman.

From the moment he reached Congress in early 1949, Ford became a disciple of the dictum of longtime House majority leader Sam Rayburn: "To get along, you must go along." No ideologue, Gerald Ford was a pragmatist before he knew what the word meant. By 1960 he was campaigning for the Vice Presidential nomination under Nixon, but was passed over for Henry Cabot Lodge. Still, *Time* tells us: "Ford's career was progressing just the way he had planned — one careful step at a time — until it was given an upward jolt by some of his impatient colleagues. After the 1964 Democratic landslide thinned Republican ranks in the House, a group of ["Liberal"] Young Turks decided that a change of leadership was necessary They urged Ford to run for House minority leader against Incumbent [*Conservative*] Charles A. Halleck of Indiana. After a vigorous campaign, Ford eked



Truman

8 YEARS — \$4.5 BILLION

Eisenhower

8 YEARS — \$16 BILLION

Kennedy

2 YEARS — \$12 BILLION

Johnson

6 YEARS — \$42 BILLION

Nixon

5 YEARS — \$67 BILLION

Ford

2 YEARS — \$105 BILLION

Ford Sets Record For Debt

President Gerald Ford has accumulated inflation-causing debt at such a rate as to have already far exceeded the combined National Debt run up in the 24 years of the Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson Administrations.

RCA

Under the Ford Administration 700,000 different federal forms are in use. It took 2,000 pages federally to qualify the tiny RCA circuit above. Yet Ford promotes still bigger government. In two years he has run up more inflationary Debt than did Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson combined.

out a narrow, six-vote victory in the Republican caucus."

But there may be more to the story, as hinted by terHorst: "Ford's rise to leadership in the House was due to his 'nice guy' reputation among the Young Turks . . . There continues to be an argument among House Republicans as to whether Ford actually led them or whether he was led by Wisconsin's Melvin R. Laird, the Machiavellian figure who employed his influence with Nixon to help Ford get Agnew's post." Laird, who was Secretary of Defense during the Vietnam sellout, has for years been a Nelson Rockefeller operative. It was Melvin Laird who made certain that Ford appointed Rocky as Vice President.

The leadership post made Gerald Ford a national figure when he joined the late Senate minority leader Everett Dirksen on "The Ev And Jerry Show," a weekly televised press conference that was intended as a G.O.P. rebuttal to the Great Society. The Congressman was content to play

Kukla or Ollie to Senator Dirksen's grandiloquent cornballing.

As House minority leader, Ford gained a reputation as "a patter and a hugger" rather than an arm twister. He repeatedly described himself as a "Liberal" on foreign policy, a moderate on domestic policy, and a Conservative on economic matters. Of this description, terHorst comments: "It had the virtue of being sufficiently ambiguous to give Ford the leeway he needed on any issue." Indeed, his A.C.A. voting record between 1959 and 1973 was in the eighties over half the time.* Ford earned a reputation as a compromiser who often voted with the Conservatives but did not provide tough leadership in that direction.

Gerald Ford will not go down in

*Americans for Constitutional Action is an organization which rates Congressmen and Senators based upon Conservative principles. There is, however, a built-in Republican bias. A tougher test is the "Conservative Index," where in his last years in Congress Ford averaged only thirty-nine percent.

the history books as a master legislator. In his twenty-five years in Congress he never authored a major piece of legislation. In fact, if you happen to be browsing through the index of the *Congressional Quarterly* between 1949 and 1965, you will find it almost naked of references to Ford. Which may be why Lyndon Johnson thought he could get by with his observation that Jerry had played too many football games without a helmet. The acid-tongued Texan also remarked that Ford was too dumb to walk and chew gum at the same time. Such humor does not spring into company unbeckoned. Even at his wedding, Jerry was wearing one brown shoe and one black shoe.

But the homespun Congressman from Grand Rapids had just the image for which the World Government boys were looking. One Gerald Ford would be worth a dozen New York slickers when it came to putting across the World Government message inside the clubby Congress. What matter that he wasn't very bright as long as he did what he was told?

So Gerald Ford played the game. For instance, he was twice a delegate to the Interparliamentary Union, in Communist Poland in 1959 and in Belgium in 1961. The purpose of the Interparliamentary Union, reports syndicated columnist Edith Kermit Roosevelt, is "to implement Lenin's proposal for a 'United States of the World,' published in No. 40 of the Russian organ, the *Socialist Democrat*, in 1915."

By 1962, Ford was important enough to World Government circles to be present at an annual secret meeting of the Bilderberg group, headed by the recently exposed Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, at which the world's leading financiers and ranking Leftwing politicians meet

under armed guard to make plans for furthering World Government through a New World Order in partnership with the Communists. Gerald Ford again attended one of these elitist gatherings in 1964 and was invited a third time in 1970. As the *Chicago Tribune* headlined the story on October 7, 1965, "Ford Admits He Fell Into Secret Group." His explanation to the *Tribune*: "Just mention that and say that Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands sponsors the meetings." Bernhard was helpfully visiting in Ford's District as early as 1952. He is the *Insider* who was just stripped of all official posts when it was discovered that he was taking millions from multinational corporations to finance worldwide conspiratorial activities.

Perhaps the most curious of Ford's involvements, however, was his service on the Warren Commission. Again, it was not intelligence which qualified him but his willingness to do as he was told. Practically nobody today mentions Ford's service on the Warren Commission, despite the fact that the *Warren Commission Report* on the killing of President Kennedy carries credibility only with those who still believe in the Easter bunny. There is sufficient evidence hidden in even the Warren Commission Hearings to prove that more than three bullets were fired. This evidence, alone, shows that the Soviet-trained Oswald was not alone but was part of a well-planned conspiracy. It was the job of the Warren Commission to prevent details of that conspiracy from reaching the American people.

Making the whole affair more embarrassing for the President is the fact that in 1965 Ballantine Books distributed a very strange book authored by Gerald Ford, entitled *Portrait Of The Assassin*, in which, according to one reviewer: "It is clear
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that Representative Ford wanted to underline Lee Oswald's guilt."^{*} The book slavishly promotes the almost totally discredited "lone assassin" fraud. As Ford put it: "The monumental record of the President's Commission will stand like a Gibraltar of factual literature through the ages to come." This may explain why his book has not been reissued. Certainly a book about the Kennedy murder by the President of the United States would sell millions of copies. Publishers of paperback books produce pornography, propaganda, good books, bad books, classics and trash, wherever they smell a dollar. But no one has touched Ford's *Portrait Of The Assassin*.

In view of all the links appearing between the C.I.A. and the Kennedy murder, it is interesting that, according to former Howard Hughes aide John Meier, the C.I.A. used Hughes as a conduit to finance Ford's 1968 congressional campaign. It also may or may not be significant that Jerry personally acted as treasurer of his "Ford For Congress Committee." In 1972, Ford raised ninety-four thousand dollars for his campaign, all but ten thousand of which came from outside Michigan. Gerald Ford, we are to believe, had friends and admirers from Maine to California, though few in his District cared enough to open their checkbooks. Coupled with the circumstances of his entry into the Congress, it makes one curious as to Ford's ultimate constituency.

^{*}Ford's co-author was found dead in his wrecked car in April 1976.

[†]Speaking of Lincoln, our favorite G.R.F. quotation comes from a Ford press release of several years back, which declared in all seriousness: "If Abraham Lincoln were alive today, he would be turning over in his grave."

The story of why Ford was selected to replace the disgraced Spiro Agnew may never see the light of day. Richard Reeves tells us in his unauthorized biography, *A Ford, Not A Lincoln*,[†] that "Gerald Ford was not Richard Nixon's first choice. He was his last choice, in more ways than one. In the privacy of his own White House, Nixon had contempt for Ford — to the point, according to one man on the President's staff at the time, that he had [Alexander] Haig deliver the 'good news' to Ford because he literally could not bring himself to do it."

Nixon wanted John Connally as his successor. Rockefeller wanted Rockefeller, but Nixon knew that to anoint Nelson as next in line would seal his Watergate doom. Apparently Ford was some kind of compromise selection. Again, according to Reeves: "Nixon hated the idea, but he had to go along," said a White House staffer. "There was also the other thing, that so many people thought Ford was too dumb to be President. Impeachment really didn't seem possible then, but certainly no one would think of doing it if it was going to put Jerry Ford in the White House. It seemed perfect."

Reeves reports that Carl Albert, the diminutive Lothario from Bug Tussle, lobbied for Ford; Senator Strom Thurmond was extremely pleased; and, "Liberal" Charles Percy praised the nominee as "an exceptional man." Senator Walter Mondale of Minnesota said: "The President is to be congratulated." But Nixon was still mocking his new Vice President, if the words of the men around Nelson Rockefeller are to be believed. After the former New York governor had met with the President, his aides told reporters that Richard Nixon had leaned back laughing and said: "Can you imagine Jerry Ford sitting in this chair?" If Nixon was needling Rockefeller, it was a dangerous jest. Wash-

ington wags now refer to Ford as "Nixon's revenge."

As Vice President, Ford's main activity was to hop around the country defending Nixon from charges stemming from the Watergate break-in. Earlier Ford had been instrumental in turning off an investigation of Watergate by a congressional committee. According to the *Los Angeles Times* of October 26, 1975: "Under oath Ford admitted he had helped block the hearings, but said the White House had not asked him to do so. Rather, he said, he acted out of concern that the investigation would jeopardize the rights of the burglars arrested in the Watergate break-in."

"The subsequent revelations in a White House tape of a conversation among Nixon, H.R. Haldeman and John Dean on Sept. 15, 1972, however, raised some doubts. Dean complained that Ford was not taking enough interest in halting the [Wright] Patman investigation. After a discussion, Nixon said John D. Ehrlichman should talk to Ford and should say, 'Now, g***** it, get the h*** over with this . . . he's got to know that it comes from the top.' Haldeman agreed."

"Nixon reiterated that Ford had to 'get at this and screw this thing up while he can, right?' Ehrlichman, he said, had to tell Ford to 'push it.'"

"During the next two weeks," Marjorie Boyd wrote [*in the Washington Monthly, October 1975*], "Ford took the lead in the successful effort to halt the Patman investigation."

The stench could not be covered up, though Ford did his best. As Vice President he informed the American public: "The President has assured me personally — not once but a number of times — that he had no prior knowledge of Watergate, no involvement in the coverup, and I fully believe it. And I am told there is verifi-

cation in documents and on tapes."

Later, Gerald Ford said on "Face The Nation" that he had not asked to see the documents or hear the tapes — which the President had assured him were proof of his innocence — for a reason. To have such knowledge might . . . conceivably be used to undermine the boss. And, Ford noted, "I am Number Two." Nine months after becoming our instant Vice President, Gerald Ford was Number One.

Ford was issuing Carter-like statements about openness in government before Jimmy Carter got off the peanut farm. On the day of his inauguration he stated that "Truth is the glue that holds governments together." If this be true, it explains why government is falling apart, because one of Mr. Ford's first acts as President was to pardon Richard Nixon, the man who had made him Vice President. What made this especially galling was that, during his Vice Presidential confirmation Hearings before the Senate Rules Committee, nominee Ford had been questioned by Committee Chairman Howard Cannon on the related issues of Presidential immunity and possible prosecution of a former President. Consider:

Cannon. If a President resigned his office before his term expired, would his successor have the power to prevent or to terminate any investigation or criminal prosecution against the former President?

Ford. Would he have the authority?

Cannon. Yes, would he have the power?

Ford. I do not think the public would stand for it. I think — and whether he has the technical authority or not, I cannot give you a categorical answer. The Attorney General, in my opinion, with the help and support of the American people, would be the controlling factor.



With Ford inflation continuing to grow, it may soon be cheaper to eat money. U.P.I.

There may be a clue to the reason for the immediate pardon in "The Skeleton In Gerald Ford's Closet," an article by Frank Fox and Stephen Parker which appeared in *New York* magazine of April 21, 1975. Fox and Parker report:

... Given Ford's reputation for political caution, if not timidity, it is difficult to believe that he has been acting voluntarily.

The explanation for Ford's bizarre behavior may lie in evidence which indicates that Gerald Ford was present at a meeting of high Nixon administration officials during which support payments for the Watergate burglars and John Mitchell's plan to use the CIA to head off the FBI investigation into the Watergate break-in were discussed. The meeting, which appears to have taken place on June 22, 1972, five days after the Watergate break-in, was attended by Nixon, Mitchell, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Colson, and Clark MacGregor,

among others. The meeting began in the Roosevelt Room at 9 A.M., moved at 10 A.M. to Nixon's Executive Office Building office across the street from the White House, and continued until 11:30 A.M. President Nixon was present for the last hour and a half of the meeting, and a tape of that portion exists.

The White House has persistently failed to either confirm or deny Ford's presence at this crucial Watergate meeting, but Ford himself has indicated that some such meeting did indeed take place.

During Ford's vice-presidential hearings in November, 1973, Congressman George Danielson asked Ford whether he had had any discussion with Nixon or with Nixon's aides about raising bail money or defense funds for the Watergate burglars. Ford said that he had not. Then the following extraordinary exchange took place:

Mr. Danielson: Have you at any time since June 17, 1972, the day of

Watergate, spoken personally or by telephone with the President, Mr. Mitchell, the former Attorney General, Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Ehrlichman, John Dean, Mr. Colson, Mr. Magruder, or anyone else at the White House concerned [sic] the raising of funds for the support of the families of the Watergate defendants?

Mr. Ford: None whatsoever. Where I may have called, I might have casually said, in a meeting where there were a number of people, that I thought it was, if it was being done, it ought to be stopped and if it was thought of as an undertaking, it ought not to be done.

This time, Ford's denial was in fact an admission of involvement, although couched in terms so vague that Danielson and the committee failed to comprehend its significance.

One must wonder if the Democrats are saving this bombshell to drop on the President if the campaign gets tight. Whether that happens, the matter of Mr. Ford's veracity is certainly open to question on other counts. Just before he ascended to the Oval Office, for instance, Ford proclaimed that he would not be a candidate in 1976: "Let me say as emphatically and strongly as I can: I have no intention of being a candidate for any office — President, Vice President, or anything else in 1976." And *U.S. News & World Report* on December 17, 1973, carried this colloquy with Ford:

Q. You say you're not going to be a candidate in 1976. Can you envision a situation where your name might be very high in the thoughts of leaders of your party in '76 as a presidential candidate?

A. I can envision such a situation. But I assure you that my own personal feeling is that I will not be a candidate — and I mean that very

strongly and very sincerely . . .

Q. Are you definitely foreclosing the option that might be open to you three years from now?

A. I am foreclosing that.

* * *

Q. Does this mean that if — for any reason — you become President before 1976, you would step aside and not run to stay in that office?

A. Yes, that is what I am saying.

According to Richard Reeves, however, at the same time Ford was denying to the press that he had any intentions of running for President in 1976, the subject virtually monopolized his conversation with intimates. By August 28, 1974, even the tune he played in public had changed: "I'll probably be a candidate in 1976." And by February 28, 1975, Gerald Ford had completed his 180-degree turnabout: "I am going undoubted, without question of a doubt — to be a candidate." He would not, of course, be a candidate for a Ph.D. in syntax.

Soon after replacing Nixon, in an interview with Godfrey Sperling for the *Christian Science Monitor*,* Mr. Ford made it clear that he was serious about moving the G.O.P. toward further "Liberalism." The Sperling article carried the headline: "Ford Sees Conservatives Backing His Liberal Moves." The subhead reads: "Said To Feel He Can Shift Slightly to the Left on Domestic Affairs." According to Sperling:

The President would very much like to be known as a President who is compassionate to all Americans. Thus — his friends say — no one

*Ever since just before World War II when the *Monitor* became closely tied to the Round Table organization of the Royal Institute for International Affairs, it has been used as a communications conduit by the elite of international finance.

should be surprised if the emerging Ford presidency is marked by a number of moves that are sufficiently liberal to evoke enthusiasm in moderate and liberal circles.

Where will Ford move? Already the President's leniency position on amnesty and his selection of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President certainly have been initiatives which pleased liberals more than they did conservatives — even though Mr. Ford now has said publicly that he doesn't think they "fall in the political spectrum, right or left."

The *Monitor* article signalled that Ford was preparing to move the G.O.P. to the Left on domestic policy just as former President Nixon had moved the party to portside in foreign policy. *Human Events* of September 14, 1974, carried this reaction:

One Ford friend put it this way: "It took a Republican President with strong support among the conservatives to seek detente with the Communist world. A liberal President might have stirred up a tremendous protest among the right-wingers . . . but Mr. Nixon could do it. His supporters trusted him." Ford is seen as thinking he has the same opportunity, in Sperling's words, "to move to his own Left on domestic matters without stirring up great public dissent. He is said to be convinced that the conservatives will go along with him even if they may not cheer his every move."

As viewed by old associates who still talk with the President frequently, Ford believes the conservatives will be content with what might be termed "liberal" or "progressive" solutions to urgent problems. Ford, however, hopes to woo conservatives to such solutions by promising to seek a balanced budget.

Of the current Ford philosophy, one longtime Ford friend says the President "has the conservatives rather nailed down. He knows they really don't have any other place to go."

The challenge by Ronald Reagan, and his popularity with grass-roots Republican activists, soon forced Ford to moderate this kind of rhetoric, but it reveals where his heart is and where he will take the country if he is elected in November. And no one can doubt it who remembers that, eleven days after Ford took office, he nominated Nelson Rockefeller as his Vice President. Of course that move was about as surprising as December rain in Seattle, since it was Rocky's lieutenant, Mel Laird, who had finessed the Vice Presidency for Ford upon the exit of Agnew.*

And Ford was proud to be a Rockefeller man. When asked by reporters at a press conference on November 14, 1974, to list the achievements of his first hundred days as President, Ford replied: "Number one, nominating Nelson Rockefeller."

While Gerald Ford's other appointments were not such household names as Rockefeller, they were certainly people to make Conservatives wince. The American Conservative Union prepared a thorough survey of Mr. Ford's selections and concluded: "While he may not have consciously pursued such an end result, the fact is that when one closely examines the

**Human Events* of August 31, 1974, noted that, in some quarters on Capitol Hill, President Ford has been the subject of many a verbal brickbat. Some critics, for instance, were sarcastically referring to the new President as a Mel Laird "wind-up toy." Ford, they noted, appears to be charting a course almost precisely laid down by Laird, a close but unofficial Ford advisor, who had persuaded the President to pick Rockefeller, call for amnesty, float the gas-tax idea, and generally turn the party to the Left.

top people President Ford has appointed to office, liberals clearly outnumber conservatives." According to *Battle Line* of November 1975:

The most thorough investigation yet done of the President's major appointments, the [A.C.U.] report shows that identifiable moderate-to-liberals far outnumber moderate-to-conservatives, and that conservatives, by and large, have been passed over in Mr. Ford's quest for "conciliation, compromise, cooperation, and consensus" with Congressional Democrats. The ACU study declares: "It is incredible that a President who lays claim to conservative loyalties has appointed so few conservatives to significant policy-making positions."

The Conservative Union report examines approximately two hundred appointments made by Ford, and notes that of the top forty the ratio of "Liberals" to Conservatives is better than two to one. And keep in mind that the A.C.U. is giving the term "Conservative" the broadest possible meaning. During the first seven months, President Ford nominated "Ultraliberal" Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President and vice chairman of the National Security Council and the Domestic Council; "Liberal" Edward H. Levi, a longtime member of Communist Fronts, as Attorney General; "Liberal" William T. Coleman of the N.A.A.C.P. legal defense and educational fund as Secretary of Transportation; "Liberal" Harvardite John Dunlop as Secretary of Labor; "Liberal" James T. Lynn as Director of the Office of Management and Budget; "Liberal" Carla Hills as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Rockefeller aides James Cannon and Richard Durham as executive director and deputy director of the Domestic Council; Rockefeller "Liberal"

Charles Goodell as chairman of the Clemency Review Board to clear the Vietnam deserters and draft dodgers; "Liberal" Frank Zarb as administrator of the Federal Energy Administration; and, on and on. Things soon got worse.

The simple fact is that President Gerald Ford is a man of the Left. Period. Which is why he is not likely to be re-elected. The idealistic appeal of the Republican Party has traditionally turned on fiscal responsibility at home and opposition to Communism abroad. The Nixon-Ford Administration has so undermined these objectives as to all but smother whatever emotional enthusiasm remains for the national ticket. The most Ford supporters are able to offer is that "Carter would be worse." This is hardly the inspiring call to arms which motivates grass-roots supporters to throw their bodies on the barbed wire.

When Richard Nixon wrested the Presidency from the Democrats in 1968, federal spending stood at \$183 billion. The Wizard of San Clemente had announced that if such profligacy were not halted forthwith, the economy would be threatened with upheaval. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, after eight years of Budgetary Elephantiasis, federal spending for next year "could rise as high as \$432 billion." Mr. Nixon's last Budget was \$304 billion. Ford has added an incredible *one hundred billion dollars* to federal spending in just two years. Again, the only defense is that under the Democrats it would be even worse. This is like saying to your wife that Dr. A shoots heroin every night, while Dr. B uses it only every other night; therefore, Dr. B is a better man to put in charge of your mother-in-law's brain surgery.

When Ford introduced his 1977 Budget he declared: "The budget I am

proposing for fiscal year 1977 and the direction I seek for the future meet the test of responsible fiscal policy We must not continue drifting in the direction of bigger and bigger government." And with that he proposed a Budget that was fifty billion dollars' worth of bigger government than the Budget of the previous year.

To put the escalation of federal spending in perspective, it took a monumental 174 years from 1788 to 1962 to reach outlays of one hundred billion dollars. It took only nine years to pile on the second one hundred billion, and only four years to add the third. Now, under the leadership of the Ford Administration, we are adding a hundred billion in the Budgets of Fiscal 1976 and 1977. If this is not stopped we will be adding seventy-five billion dollars a year to federal spending within a year or two, and within four or five years we will pile on one hundred billion in a single year. Caramba! We'll soon be making the inflation of Argentina look like economic stability.

What we have going here is a con game. The G.O.P. claims to be the party of "fiscal responsibility" while the Donkeycrats claim to be the party of "human needs." The Republicans would like to keep the increase in spending down to forty billion dollars or so per year, while the Democrats would dearly love to pump it up by sixty billion dollars. This carnage game allows the Democrats to denounce Ford and the Republicans as heartless skinflints while Ford and the G.O.P. respond with charges of financial madness. It keeps all the players happy and perpetuates the carefully contrived fiction that we still have at least one party devoted to financial responsibility.

Occasionally, therefore, it is necessary for President Ford to veto a con-

gressional spending appropriation to maintain the fiction, hold the deficit increase at fifty billion dollars per year, and provide grist for nominally Conservative political constituencies that hear only what they want to hear. If Gerald Ford were really serious about bringing federal spending under control, he would have vetoed half the bills which reached his desk, proposed aggressive retrenchment in the federal bureaucracy coupled with a corresponding tax cut, and dared the Congress to say him nay.

The other side of the spending coin is inflation. Polls show that the majority of Americans consider inflation the nation's greatest problem. Unfortunately, these polls also show that a majority of Americans still don't understand the cause of inflation. This allowed Gerald Ford to crank up that absurd WIN (Whip Inflation Now) program whereby the American people were urged to slay the inflation dragon by wearing WIN buttons and cleaning their dinner plates.

Noah Webster tells anyone who will read his dictionary that *inflation* is a "rapid increase in the money supply." Since businessmen and unions, the traditional whipping boys for inflation, do not have access to the government's money presses, there is no way they can increase the money supply. The natural *consequence* of government inflation of our money is that businesses and unions must raise prices and wages to keep their heads above water. The "Liberal" mass media would have us believe that the effect is the cause, permitting the politicians to escape blame for their actions.

As part of the WIN program, Gerald Ford tried to remove the inflation albatross from the neck of government and place it on the consumer, who is its chief victim. On October 16,

1974, President Ford issued a twelve-point program to cure inflation that included: family budgeting; using credit cards wisely; increasing family saving; conserving energy; shopping wisely; planting gardens; recycling scrap materials; and, wasting less and guarding one's health. Ford even mentioned that the Treasury Department had been asked about the possibility of WIN bonds, "a new sort of government savings bond, whose interest rate might rise and fall with changes in the rate of inflation." Mercifully, that is the last we have heard about WIN bonds. Even P.T. Barnum couldn't have peddled that kind of fraud with a straight face.

Here is how the inflation game works. When the federal Budget runs in the red, it covers the deficits by selling bonds. A high percentage of these bonds are purchased by banks, which put the bonds up for collateral with the Federal Reserve and turn the securities into instant cash. This instant cash is new money, which never existed before, and it takes on value only by diluting the value of all money previously in circulation — including the money in your bank account, insurance policies, and pension funds. Prices roar into the stratosphere.

Gerald Ford knows this. As a Congressman, Ford said of inflation: "Double-digit inflation is a result of double-digit increases in money supply and double-digit budget deficits." Notice there is no babbling here about shopping wisely, planting gardens, or watching the use of credit cards. On federal Budget policy, Congressman Ford wisely observed: "Nothing could be more important in the war against inflation than to achieve a surplus in next year's government operations."

Now, let's look at the scoreboard. In eight years, Truman ran only \$4.5 bil-

lion in deficits. Eisenhower added sixteen billion dollars in eight tries. President Kennedy piled twelve billion dollars onto the National Debt in two years. Lyndon Johnson, while fighting the Vietnam War with his "guns and butter" program, rocketed that Debt by forty-two billion over six years. Richard Nixon, the purported penny pincher, used sixty-seven billion dollars' worth of red ink over five Budgets. But Gerald Ford, who as a Congressman assured us that it is just such Debt which produces double-digit inflation, managed to run the government at a *loss of one hundred and five billion dollars* in just two years.

Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson managed to run up a total of seventy-five billion dollars in deficits over a twenty-four-year period. That is thirty billion dollars less than the man the media keep telling us is a rock-ribbed, old-fashioned Conservative managed in but two trips to the fiscal plate.

Yet, while flooding us with all this sea of red ink, Mr. Ford still maintains that inflation is "Public Enemy Number One." The man is a complete fraud. In 1974, Ford said: "I will work to bring the federal budget into balance by Fiscal 1976." Less than six months later he submitted a \$349.4 billion Budget for Fiscal 1976 with an estimated deficit of fifty-two billion dollars. One of the jokes making the rounds of Washington has Gerald Ford calling in members of his Cabinet to tell them to get their departments in order because: "I want this country to go bankrupt as efficiently as possible."

To make things worse, in a purely political move, President Ford proposed in his 1975 State of the Union message to cut personal income tax by \$16.6 billion. In March 1975, he claimed a larger cut was necessary and

upped the ante to nineteen billion. But later that month, two weeks before the public filed their income-tax returns, Santa Ford signed a tax cut amounting to twenty-four billion dollars — every penny of which was spun out in deficit-produced inflation.

With these monumental deficits, the currency has naturally been inflated at a fast clip. During the past twelve months, it has been increased by 9.5 percent, which is a rise from the 8.3 percent inflation of the previous five years. Thanks to Gerald Ford, who knows what he is doing, prices are about to go off like a rocket. You get some idea of what this means when you realize that, over the years of the Ford Presidency, the cost of living has been driven up almost twenty-seven percent by those carefully planned Ford deficits.

Vermont Royster of the *Wall Street Journal* says of Ford and inflation that "he has a policy but not a program. A visitor detects a faint air of defeatism What hangs in the balance, then, is whether a democratic country, once embarked on the road of inflation, can in fact halt the process in due time. The historical record, for whatever relevance that may have, is not good. The Germans in the 1920s . . . the French in the post World War II period"

The catalogue of Ford's domestic double crosses, which have dramatically increased federal spending and the National Debt, is a fat one. In promoting ever-expanding government, summarizes the *Wall Street Journal*, the Ford Administration "has embraced the principle of government preemption of the private sector, credit allocation, fiscal gimmickry, bigger bureaucracies, and multibillion-dollar subsidies." Not bad for the most conservative President since (pick one) Calvin Coolidge, William McKinley, or Grover Cleve-

land. In virtually every field, the President has signed bills giving government ever more money and power. Consider:

On August 21, 1974, the President signed a bill to support court-ordered school bussing to achieve racial balance, though during the next eighteen months he regularly criticized forced bussing as a social blight.

On August 22, 1974, he signed into law a \$25.4 billion education bill, giving Washington bureaucrats ever greater control over the state and local schools.

Early in 1975, Ford assured Senator James McClure and other Conservatives that the newly created Legal Services Corporation would definitely be conservatively administered and kept out of the hands of radicals. Congressional Conservatives were shocked when they found out the new corporation was overwhelmingly radical and that two militant law-school deans had been named to head the corporation staff.

On June 19, 1975, Mr. Ford declared himself unalterably opposed to federal registration of guns or the licensing of gun owners. In his 1976 State of the Union speech, he nonetheless urged federal registration of inexpensive handguns, promising to "make it harder to obtain cheap guns," and proposed to "concentrate gun-control enforcement in high-crime areas" where householders are most in need of protection.

In November 1974, President Ford signed the misnamed "campaign reform law" which increased taxpayer subsidies of Presidential campaigns and placed limits on private contributions to political candidates — but left organized labor's so-called "in kind" contributions to "Liberal" candidates virtually untouched. Political scientists may one day conclude that this bill was the death knell of the

Republican Party. Even Ford supporter Barry Goldwater was forced to admit:

The bill has a lot of provisions, some good and some bad, but the overall effect of the measure is to salt incumbents in their congressional seats for as long as they want to stay. When you realize that the Democrats controlling the House and Senate picked up added strength on November 5, you can understand why this course was taken.

What is hard to understand is why Republicans voted for it and why President Ford signed it.

And who can forget the stern lecture Mr. Ford gave New York City over its monetary madness, and his promise to the American taxpayers that they would never, but never, be forced to pick up the tab for the Gotham's profligacy. A month later, Gerald Ford "relented," agreed to \$2.5 billion in loan guarantees, and then upped the ante with ever more loans in the summer of 1976. When those loans are defaulted, the taxpayer in Topeka will have paid for the Welfare bonanza in Manhattan.

But New York City is not the only one defaulting these days. President Ford's promise to trim the ballooning federal bureaucracy by forty thousand employees is in default and getting worse. In the first eleven months after he took office, the number of federal employees increased from 2,866,904 to 2,930,849 — a growth of 63,945 new bureaucrats being supported by the taxpayers. In dollars and cents, this payroll padding has cost you an additional \$780 million.

Another very sticky wicket for Mr. Ford is the abortion issue. While Mrs. Ford is an outspoken proponent of this growing butchery, the President has taken pains carefully to straddle

the issue. Jimmy Carter, possibly the greatest broken-field runner since Red Grange, tried to do the same thing, but was forced by militant females in New York to come down on the pro-abortion side of the line. Which is why Ford is now out courting the "right-to-life" people. As syndicated columnist John D. Lofton observes, "the nitty-gritty, bottom-line question as regards the President's position on abortion is not what does he say about the right to life, but what during his two years as the nation's Chief Executive has he done to ensure this right. And when this aspect of the issue is examined, the record of Mr. Ford and his Administration is a dismal one indeed."

"In fact," Lofton continues, "Mrs. Randy Engel, executive director of the U.S. Coalition for Life, goes so far as to label the Ford Administration's record on abortion 'an absolute monstrosity.' In an interview, Mrs. Engel, whose organization is made up of 1,200 pro-life groups in the U.S. and abroad, tells me that in January, when she and some other pro-lifers met with the President's Domestic Council, Mr. Ford's men argued for the federal funding of abortion, saying it was discriminatory to deny the poor this right Anyway, such HEW-funded Medicaid abortions snuff out the lives of approximately a quarter of a million unborn children, at a annual cost to the taxpayer of about \$50 million.

"Mrs. Engel notes that under Mr. Ford's Administration, the Agency for International Development's Office of Population Affairs has doled out millions of taxpayer dollars to such aggressively pro-abortion groups as the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Population Council, and the U.N.'s Fund for Population Activities."

And there is much more that Mr.

Ford is on the public record as advocating. Programs so collectivist in nature that he dared not push them while being challenged for the nomination from the Conservative wing of his party. But, if he wins the election in November, Gerald Ford can press these plans with virtual impunity and with a great deal of support from the Democrats and the "Liberal" mass media. For instance, the President's programs include his call for the passage of the "necessary" Equal Rights Amendment so vociferously championed by the brassy Betty Ford. He has already ordered our military academies to accept women cadets, and plans have been made for their use in military combat. The President also advocates creation of a National Health Insurance program which would be another major step toward socialized medicine. And Ford insiders say the Administration is assembling a group of "welfare experts" who are expected to rejuvenate the several times defeated Family Assistance Plan — a guaranteed annual income — which Ford supported while a Congressman.

But, we hear from our Republican friends, surely even you Conservatives can recognize that Gerald Ford must "compromise" to be elected. Ford has himself opined: "I believe that anybody to the right of me, Democrat or Republican, can't win a national election." It is well past time we recognized that troglodyte cliché of the early Sixties as being complete balderdash. A recent Gallup Poll shows that thirty-eight percent of the

voters now characterize themselves as Conservatives, while only twenty-six consider themselves "Liberals." The proportion of Conservatives is the "highest recorded since the question was first asked in 1936." Since only nineteen percent of the electorate call themselves Republicans, the logical approach for the G.O.P., if it is to elect a President, is to pursue the Conservatives. Save for some gratuitous rhetoric, Ford has not done this.

Which is why yesterday's Left is today's Center as we are moved across the political spectrum toward total government. Certainly the masters of the Kremlin understand the game. The *Baltimore Sun* reports from Moscow that, "satisfied with both party nominees, the Kremlin has hinted that it will remain neutral in the election between Mr. Ford and the Democratic nominee, Jimmy Carter."

Your correspondent believes that our country is still so free, and vast, and rich in resources and spirit that the process of moving toward a Soviet America can be reversed, but it will not be done by any massive effort to elect either of this year's Republican or Democrat nominees for a four-year term in the White House. Which is why it is essential in this election year that Americanists spend their time working in Conservative education campaigns for sound congressional candidates willing to fight to hold the line against either Ford or Carter. The alternative is to acquiesce in surrendering ourselves, and all that we love, to utter and complete debacle. ■ ■

CRACKER BARREL

- If you really want trouble — walk into an antique shop and ask: "What's new?"
- "It is very remarkable," said William Graham Sumner, "that, in the United States, the same persons should cherish great horror of polygamy and feel slight horror of divorce."
- Many people seem to spend half their lives complaining about the shortness of life's span, and the other half killing time.
- A handful of common sense is worth a bushel of learning.