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UP-074

(MRS. FORD-HAYS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- BETTY FORD TOLD HER HUSBAND THAT SHE WAS MISQUOTED WHEN SHE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT REP. WAYNE HAYS, R-OHIO "IS A FINE GENTLEMAN," A WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID "MRS. FORD TOLD THE PRESIDENT SHE DIDN'T SAY WHAT SHE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING."

SHEILA RABB WEIDENFELD, THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY, SAID MRS. FORD "DIDN'T REMEMBER SAYING IT."

SHE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "HE'S A VERY FINE GENTLEMAN AND HE WASN'T MARRIED WHEN IT HAPPENED."

HAYS HAS ADMITTED HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH ELIZABETH RAY AND HAS GIVEN UP HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

NESSEN SAID THAT FORD "DOESN'T KNOW OF ANYONE IN HIS ADMINISTRATION" INVOLVED IN SIMILAR CONDUCT.

HE SAID THAT WHEN THE PRESIDENT FIRST CAME TO THE WHITE HOUSE HE SET THE CODE FOR MORAL STANDARDS.

UPI 06-04 02:31 PED

*addend
Trotter 6/5/76*

Tax Misuse Feared

Ford on Scandal

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford said yesterday he and the public are disturbed there may have been misuse of tax money in the Wayne Hays scandal. President Ford said he had warned Congress five

UP-126

(BETTY)

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) -- BETTY FORD, DIFFERING WITH WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN, SAID TODAY SHE PROBABLY DID CALL REP. WAYNE HAYS "A FINE GENTLEMAN".

"HE IS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF OURS," MRS. FORD SAID ON HER ARRIVAL TO CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENT IN NEXT TUESDAY'S CALIFORNIA PRIMARY. "I PROBABLY DID CALL HIM A FINE GENTLEMAN."

EARLIER IN WASHINGTON, NESSEN SAID TO REPORTERS THAT "MRS. FORD TOLD THE PRESIDENT SHE DIDN'T SAY WHAT SHE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING" ABOUT THE OHIO DEMOCRAT NOW ACCUSED OF PUTTING ELIZABETH RAY ON THE GOVERNMENT PAYROLL TO BE HIS MISTRESS.

BUT MRS. FORD INDICATED SHE WAS NOT MISQUOTED, AND SAID "I ALSO SAID THAT I WAS GLAD THAT IT WAS HIS PROBLEM, NOT MINE. I'M GLAD HE HAD IT AND I DIDN'T."

ASKED IF SHE THOUGHT HAYS SHOULD STEP DOWN, SHE SAID: "NO, I THINK HE SHOULD BE HANDLED JUST AS ALL THOSE CASES ARE HANDLED -- IN THE CONGRESS."

MRS. FORD HAD BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING, "HE'S A VERY FINE GENTLEMAN AND HE WASN'T MARRIED WHEN IT HAPPENED."

HAYS HAS ADMITTED HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH MISS RAY, BUT DISPUTED HER CLAIM THAT SHE WAS PAID \$14,000 AS A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF BUT DID VIRTUALLY NO WORK.

UPI 06-04 05:58 PED

Names/Faces

Stassen Makes It Official: He's Running

Political pundits have been speculating for months about a certain Minnesotan making the run for the nation's highest office, and finally the bubble has popped. Harold Stassen announced yesterday that he won't keep his party waiting any longer. He's in the race for

some educational things like 'Be Kind to Animals' and 'Be Careful Crossing the Street.' But the main thing will be carefree fun."

Nessen Says Betty Says She Didn't Say It

Everything that First Lady Betty Ford is supposed to have said so far about Rep. Wayne Hays' behavior is inoperative, got that? That's the word from White