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Michael - comments

6-A —THE DETROIT NEWS—Monday, August 12, 1974



—UPI Telephoto

Michael Ford outside his Essex, Mass., home with wife Gayle

Ford's son wants Nixon to confess

From UPI and AP Dispatches

ESSEX, Mass. — The eldest son of President Ford says he believes that what is needed from former President Nixon is "a confession, or an admission of any guilt involved" in the Watergate case.

Michael said his father had a "great feeling of sadness and sorrow" at what had happened to Mr. Nixon, but added "there are many accomplishments on his record. I just think he as well as anyone else is responsible for all the

Detroit Free Press said Rocky is leading candidate for VP. ...ABC's Smith commented that 2 needs of Exec in choosing VP should outweigh all others: (1) qualified to replace GF, and (2) ability to mobilize talent in new Admin. And Rocky meets both criteria best, said Smith, who noted Rocky found "brilliant" HAK, among others. Smith said many on Hill have lived "sheltered" life w/in DC, but Rocky's traveled thruout nation, and his talent-finding ability would be "rare asset" to GF.

Nessen on NBC said GF knows there's organized campaign for Rocky/Bush. Coming from behind are: Reagan, BG, Laird, Richardson; dark horses: Baker, Brock, Evans, Rumsfeld and Gov. Ray. GF wants no Dems, blacks or women, said Nessen. He wants man fit to serve as Pres. if needed, good GOP campaigner, young enough to run in '80, and someone who'll not overshadow or undercut GF.

GF's pres'l opponent for sr. class of Southern High on CBS AM, indicating how his party took GOP name, giving them advantage, and promising class rings/pins before Christmas. Reporter said Schuiling believes, however, that better man actually lost.

CBS noted Soviet mag New Times described GF as a "balanced, calm and confident" person who was "one of best football players in US in his youth."...Mag said GF faces formidable task in trying to cope w/US economic problems and current "deep spiritual trauma." In another 1st, mag gave USSR readers details of WG break-in, and emphasized RN met downfall only because of WG and not because of his foreign policy.

CBS w/Michael and Gayle Ford in Durham, w/Peterson asking him to comment on his recent call for RN confession. Michael (on film) said perhaps confession was wrong term. But he would hope to hear some full statement from RN (as) only a few really know course of events and what decisions were made. Nation's entitled to that, he said. Equally important, Michael continued, is RN's own peace of mind. Such statement would clear air, he said. Assessing change in US mood, Michael said it seems lifting of W'gate, that'd bogged down nation, is like fresh air. Gayle (on film), who reporter said "looks amazingly like a Ford," said GF's same in private and public and said she's "very confident" for US w/him as Pres. Having known him privately, she said, makes her really confident. Michael said GF'll look for lots of advice -- he always sought interests of his children. GF will want positive, constructive input, he concluded.