

The original documents are located in Box 41, folder “Ford, Michael - Religious Views” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Star 1/29/76

The Nation

Transplants May Aid Diabetics

BOSTON — A leading diabetes researcher says the



Ford Attends Prayer Breakfast

President Ford today attended a bicentennial prayer breakfast and urged the country to begin its third century "with the same faith and the same purpose as our nation's founders." The President, his wife Betty and son Michael 25, a seminary student, were among some 3,000 guests at the 24th annual National Prayer

Ford Apology Splits Poles here: Televised Retraction Asked
(Editorial, excerpted, Chicago Tribune)

Two Polish leaders in Chicago disagreed on whether President Ford has adequately explained and apologized for saying the Soviets do not dominate Eastern Europe. Aloysius Mazewski, National President of the Polish-American Congress, said he received a phone call from the President Friday in which Ford said he "was sorry for it (the statement), he regrets it, and he apologized for it."

Mazewski said he was satisfied that the president did not intend the remark as it appeared during his debate Wednesday night with Democratic challenger Jimmy Carter. (NBC) However, Edward Nowak, a leader with the Polish-American Political League, said the Polish community should hear Ford retract the statement "on a national network, just as the debate was done,"

It may already be too late, insofar as 100 million Americans of Eastern European descent are concerned," Nowak said. "But if the President wants to adequately retract the statement, I believe he must do so in the same way he originally made the statement, Explaining in a phone call or a letter is not enough." He was referring to a letter of explanation which Mazewski said Ford promised to him. Nowak is chairman of the executive review board of the Chicago Polish-American Political League, an umbrella group for 88 Polish-American organizations. 10/10/76

Baker: Ford's Regained Momentum

As Air Force One headed back to the nation's capital, Ford campaign chairman acknowledged to reporters on board that "we hit a bump last week" with the resignation of Secretary Butz and Ford's own efforts to clarify his remarks on Eastern Europe.

But Baker insisted that the Ford camp firmly believes..we have regained whatever momentum we lost,, with what he called a very successful weekend in Oklahoma and Texas. "We have a campaign strategy we think is the right one. It's been successful and it's one we are going to continue to pursue," He said. (AP, OPI) 10/10

First Family

Michael Ford: Carter Not Only Born Again Christian

Jimmy Carter is not the only "born again" Christian, according to President Ford's son, Michael, in an interview with newsweek. The President's oldest son is quoted in the current issue of the magazine as saying his father has experienced, "A renewal in his Christian faith" in the past three years.

But Michael, twenty six, told newsweek he is hesitant to use the same terminology often employed in describing the faith of his father's Democratic rival.



NY Times 9/27 Pg 36

**Ford's Son Sees Truth
In Interview by Carter**

SOUTH HAMILTON, Mass., Sept. 26
(AP) — Michael Ford, eldest son of the
President, says that as a divinity stu-
dent he thinks Jimmy Carter's com-
ments on adultery

Ford Man Of Quiet, Deep Religion

By SUE HONG
Sentinel Star Staff

It was only a minute away from swearing in ceremony for vice presidential nominee Gerald Ford. His wife, Elizabeth, recognizing the mammoth task ahead, came over to her son, Michael, and said, "Dad, I thought it would be a good idea for us to go into the corner room and



advice and I know we will have many moments sharing our ethical views."

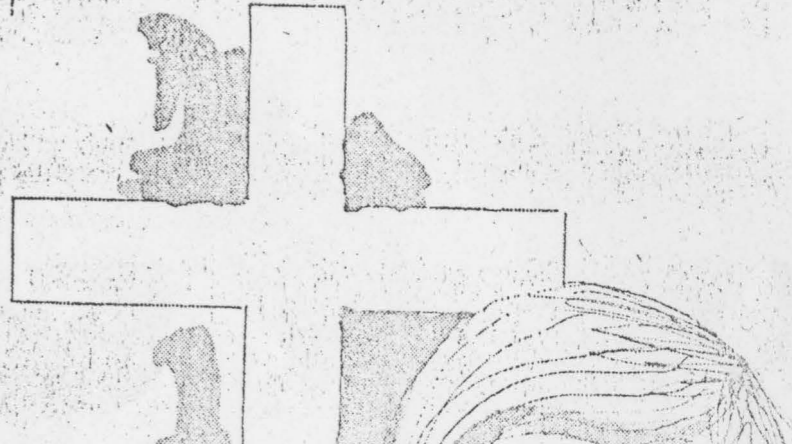
While the vice president is not religiously outspoken or flowing over with Christian messages, Mrs. Ford is more "outwardly expressive" of her faith.

"She is totally dependent on providence and the Lord," revealed Michael and added, "I am kind of pleased with that."

Fords are committed and strong churchgoers. Their parents were communicants of this parish throughout their life.

"He has many good friends who elected him to Congress and they are still here," continued Rev. Ostenson. "When he is in town, he pokes in."

To Billy Zeoli, a longtime evangelist and hometown friend, Ford



Ford's Son Replies With Own Letter

A letter writer requesting a telephone interview with a member of the President's family will, as rule of thumb, receive a



Mike Ford: Quiet, unass

ESSEX — Until word was received, Tuesday, that his mother was coming to town, Michael Ford had managed to fashion for himself as near a normal, quiet, private life as possible under the circumstances.

But what had been meant as a totally off the record, personal visit by First Lady Betty Ford intruded on the tranquility, Michael and his wife Gail had managed to establish over the past few years.

While brother Jack has been taping interviews for "60 Minutes" and sister, Susan, has been shown throwing graduation parties at the White House, Michael, a divinity student at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, has stayed as far away from the publicity and the politics as possible.

"It may look like avoidance but it really is a question of survival," a close associate said of the Fords near total seclusion from any type of public exposure at all.

Michael did grant a few interviews shortly after his father was

chosen to replace Spiro Agnew as Vice President.

Michael and Gail were married shortly after that, and apparently there were some "unfortunate" incidents, or personal problems created by the fact that suddenly Michael was son of the Vice President of the United States of America.

That meant there were secret servicemen following Michael, even to the point of going on the honeymoon with the newly-weds, and reporters hounding him to comment on one situation or another, especially while Washington was being torn apart by Watergate. It also meant they were the subject of countless rumors.

So the decision was reached early on to maintain a low profile, for the sake of the marriage and for the careers Michael and Gail have chosen for themselves.

Most neighbors see very little of the young Fords ("they come and go," as one Essex resident put it), and their presence doesn't seem to be much of an issue. In Essex, the kind of town

where most people are free to go about their business undisturbed, Michael and Gail seem to have found a home that accomodates the low profile they wish to keep.

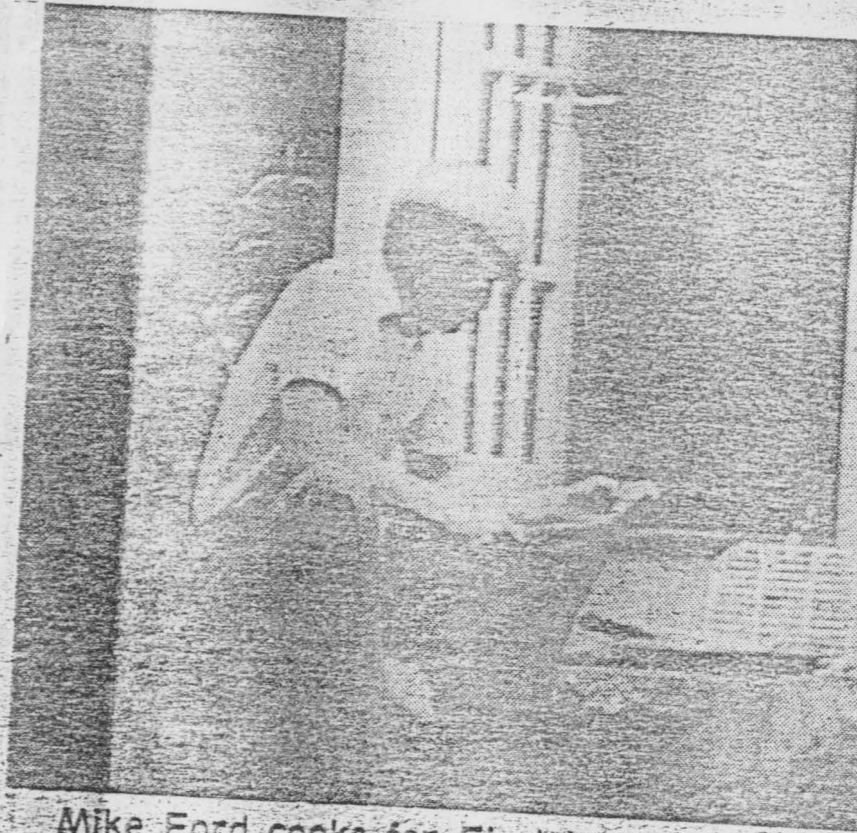
From talking with friends and associates, the picture emerges of a very ordinary, yet very special couple.

Michael is described as a regular guy — thoughtful, considerate and loving. He gets on well with people. He is liked by his school mates. He plays basketball and jogs and takes his wife out to some of the local restaurants occasionally for dinner.

He is an active member of the Ascension Memorial Episcopal Church, Ipswich. He did his "field education" two years ago with Young Life, a Christian Youth Organization, in Ipswich, and has part of his college work did something with a handful of people at Tufts University.

Michael will be finishing another year of education at Gordon-Conwell. Presently, he and Gail are both working — Michael for a contractor in

suming and a cook, too



Mike Ford cooks for First Lady in Essex

Portsmouth, N.H. Where Gail works is kept secret. Earlier this Spring Michael worked at the Story Boatyard in town.

"They are just neat kids," was the way another friend described the young couple.

Dr. Lloyd Kalland, executive vice president of the scenic and secluded seminary, characterized Michael as "very balanced, level headed Christian fellow. It is hard to think anyone with more balance and discretion. He is a good student — an around good fellow."

One thing that seemed to add some insight into the type of person Mike Ford really is was Dr. Kalland's response when asked about reports that Mrs. Ford might be stopping by the school. "Mike Ford would have contacted us about something like that," Kalland said.

This seemed typical of the young man who not only avoids the public spotlight himself, but also tries

(MIKE FORD—)
(Continued on Page 2)



THE
SALEM

EVENING NEWS

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ING NEWS

EDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1976

40 Pages — 20c



WASHINGTON — If Gerald Ford is as open with the public as his kids are, this administration will suffer no credibility gap.

Consider the following:

- Son Jack, 22, slouching poolside in faded jeans, toes protruding through a hole in his moccasins, approving amnesty for draft-evaders days before his father announced he was considering such a step and then urging lighter penalties for marijuana users.

- Daughter Susan, 17, deploring the trumpets that precede presidential arrivals at state dinners, declaring she will wear her jeans in the White House and saying that the First Lady will probably wander through the stately presidential mansion in her bathrobe.

- Son Steven, 18, claiming that politics is just no good "family-wise."

- Son Michael, 24, stating that Richard Nixon ought to tell all to the American public and admitting he's smoked grass in the past and that he "probably" will never do it again.

The Ford family may pose the greatest threat to the concept of an "imperial presidency" since the days of Harry S. Truman. The Ford kids are into hard rock, hamburgers, beer, flicks, Mustangs, skiing, tennis, swimming, waterskiing and weekends at the beach. They have friends who smoke grass, their speech patterns sound natural and if you put them in any setting with other young people, they'd blend right in, better looking than most perhaps, but still average kids.

WWD interviewed them at their Alexandria, Va., home shortly before the family moved to the White House, at the side of the swimming pool used by their father almost daily for 25 years. They admit they're nervous and "uncomfortable" talking to the press, but that doesn't appear to stop them from speaking freely.

Susan's first, claiming she has to hurry because she's on her way to class. She's been studying typing and English all summer in an effort to pull up her grades and prepare her for college entrance exams: "I'm not what you would call a very good English student," she says. "What's my best subject? I really don't have one."

She's not going to do much stumping for her father, or Julie Eisenhower-type filling-in for the first family next year.

"School is first on the list as far as my parents are concerned. That's why I'm up on the third floor of the White House, away from everything. And they took the phone away. I want to do really well in my senior year in high school because it can determine what college I get into."

She and her mother have just about decided on Mt. Vernon junior college in Washington, but Susan has not yet chosen a major subject: "I wouldn't mind majoring in fashion, but I love working with children. I'd like to be a kindergarten teacher or work with mentally retarded children. I used to go over to the hospital with mother and I really enjoyed that."

Basically, what she likes best is needlepoint, taking care of her plants, babysitting, ballet classes (which she takes twice a week) and her beau, Gardner Britt.

"We've been friends for quite a while. I met him over at Episcopal High School. He was dating someone else at the time," she says, looking pleased with herself. "We just have a lot of fun. We waterski or horseback ride or watch movies on TV at his house."

Susan says she does not want to be married for "at least four more years," and wants "lots and lots and lots and lots" of children.

As for life in the White House, she says, "We're a very casual family and I don't plan on changing that. At formal dinners, mother will make an announcement: 'If you want to leave after dinner, go ahead and leave because we're not going upstairs at 10. We're going to stay and dance.'" And trumpets will no longer herald her parents' arrival: "Mother says that's not necessary. Mother's just very relaxed. She's always running around in her bathrobe. She doesn't care."

The kitchen door opens and Jack saunters out as Susan departs for English class. He's in faded jeans, green polo shirt, and a silver bracelet is on his wrist. A forestry major at Utah State, he's an outdoors type and has been working this summer at Yellowstone National Park "checking camp sites and making sure campers comply with fishing regulations." Next year, he plans to be a snow ranger with the Forest Service, primarily patrolling ski trails. Eventually, he plans to attend law school.

According to his family, Jack is the Ford most likely to follow in his father's footsteps: "If I felt I had the calling," he said, "I wouldn't mind running. If the opportunity arises, I'll look into it."

Meanwhile, his "real life" is out West, and that's why he says he hasn't been greatly affected by the new change: "It blows me away a lot. I'm not here for those calls at 2 a.m., so I'm not aware of what goes on."

Still, he's a pretty aware fellow and tells WWD he is in favor of amnesty for Vietnam War evaders almost a week before the President said he was reviewing the situation.

"It's very important," says Jack. "I'm very much in favor of it. I might not go as far as to say unconditional amnesty, but I think it is much more important to be forgiving than it is to find fault with others."

He also believes marijuana penalties ought to be relaxed: "There are more important steps to be made to deal with the problem in a more realistic manner than stiff sentences, putting people in jail, like 22-year-olds, for smoking a little pot." Asked whether he's ever indulged, he grins widely. "Uhhh, you know," he says nervously, fishing for words. "I would rather not say anything."

Jack's been dating since he was 15 or 16 but hopes not to marry "for quite a while."

"I'm not oriented to the idea of losing my freedom," he said. "I like to move around. Besides, no one could put up with me."

He approves of premarital sex, but not cohabitation.

If he had beliefs in bed with someone, I think he would be a good



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mrs. Ford:

Thought you would like to
see the attached article if
you haven't already.

I loved visiting with you yesterday.

Wilma

Wilma

*File -
Mike*

DECISION

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Copies of this prayer suitable for framing are available at 35¢ each for postage & handling. Write to 'Prayer-Photo,' Box 779, Minneapolis, MN 55440

Prayer for the New President

by MICHAEL FORD

We collectively lift up to You one of Your children, Gerald Ford, in his position of leadership in this great nation. You have called him to a tremendously demanding task in a turbulent and critical time in history. It is our prayer, Lord, that You would bless him with discernment and good judgment as he seeks faithfully to carry out the many responsibilities laid before him. Protect him and keep him strong in spirit, mind and body in the trials, the tests, and the temptations before him. Grant him courage to trust in You always and not in the things of this world. Work in his heart the desire to seek Your guidance and direction in all things. We humbly pray that Your Holy Spirit, who reveals all truth and who gives all life, may dwell in him and also in us, that together as Your faithful children we may walk in Your ways and glorify Your name. We ask this in Christ's name and for his sake.

■ This prayer was offered by Michael Ford, eldest son of President Gerald R. Ford, at a luncheon in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in January, 1974, shortly after Mr. Ford had been confirmed by Congress as Vice President of the United States. Sponsoring the 'laymen's prayer luncheon' was Gospel Films of Muskegon, which is headed by Billy Zeoli. While the prayer asked God's blessing on the then Vice President, we believe it is even more appropriate now that Mr. Ford has assumed the Presidency. Michael Ford is a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Wenham, Massachusetts.

Photo courtesy Gospel Films, Inc.



President Gerald R. Ford at a prayer luncheon last January in Grand Rapids, with his son, Michael (left), a theological seminary student

September 16, 1976

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY
KATHY OSBECK
NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS

THE STUDY

1:01 P.M. EDT

MISS OSBECK: Mr. President, Evangelical Christians believe that a personal commitment to Jesus Christ has to be an integral part in their faith. In the light of that, can you tell us what Jesus Christ means to you?

THE PRESIDENT: It goes back some time, Kathy, and it goes back to my upbringing by my parents when I was very young. It has been reinforced in my lifetime by a number of experiences that I have had. It means the dedication to His life and to His principles and I seek to follow in my own public, as well as private, life those principles.

MISS OSBECK: So, you have actually dedicated your life to Him, then?

THE PRESIDENT: That is correct. I have said on several occasions when asked that I have a commitment to the Christian faith and I have a relationship with Jesus Christ through my church and through my daily life.

MISS OSBECK: Mr. President, many men who have sat where you are sitting right now have testified that Bible reading and prayer were essential to them in times of crisis. Do you find this to be true in your experience as well?

THE PRESIDENT: Very definitely, and it has been all of my life, but it has been accentuated by the fact that our oldest son, Mike Ford, is currently going to seminary, Gordon-Cornwell, up in Massachusetts. He is very dedicated and since He has taken that as his life work, wherever he is, here we do have an even broader experience in reading the Bible and reading it together.

He gave me one of the priceless things that I have in this office, a Bible, which meant much to him and now means an even greater amount to me, but both my wife, Betty, and myself read excerpts from the Bible, I would say, on a very daily basis.

MISS OSBECK: And prayer is very important to you then, too?

THE PRESIDENT: Very definitely, and from Proverbs I have a prayer and, I am very proud to say, I say it at night when I go to bed. I have for a good many years. It goes: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; lean not to thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths."

It is a daily expression by me, by recitation of that from Proverbs.

MISS OSBECK: Mr. President, can you tell us, how does that Christian commitment that you have made to Jesus Christ affect the political decisions that you have to make day by day?

THE PRESIDENT: It is somewhat hard to be definitive in that regard, but the fact that I have that commitment, the fact that, I believe, subjectively has a tremendous impact, I think, on a decision that I have to make and some of these are very difficult and very "close calls" as we say.

So, it is really subjective in the major part but, on the other hand, there is no hesitancy on my part to ask for guidance and through prayer, when some of these very difficult decisions have to be made by me in the Oval Office. I don't hesitate to do so on such occasions.

MISS OSBECK: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Kathy.

END (AT 1:06 P.M. EDT)

9/28/76 JH

TRANSCRIPT OF DISCUSSION - PRESIDENT FORD AND EVANGELICAL LEADERS

Mr. President, Christians believe that a personal commitment to Jesus Christ has to be an integral part in their faith. In the light of that, can you tell us what Jesus Christ means to you, and have you dedicated your life to Him?

I have said on several occasions, when asked, that I have a commitment to the Christian faith and I have a relationship with Jesus Christ through my church and through my daily life. My faith goes back to my upbringing by my parents when I was very young. It has been reinforced in my lifetime by a number of experiences that I have had. Faith means the dedication to His life and to His principles and I seek to follow in my own public, as well as private, life those principles.

Many Presidents have testified that Bible reading and prayer were essential to them in times of crises. Do you find this to be true in your experience as well?

Very definitely, and it has been all of my life, but it has been accentuated by the fact that our oldest son, Mike Ford, is currently going to seminary, Gordon-Conwell, up in Massachusetts. He is very dedicated and since he has taken that as his life work, whenever he is here, we do have an even broader experience in reading the Bible and studying it together.

He gave me one of the priceless things that I have in the Oval Office, a Bible, which meant much to him and now means an even greater amount to me. Both my wife, Betty, and myself read excerpts from the Bible on a daily basis.

How does that Christian commitment that you have made to Jesus Christ affect the political decisions that you have to make day by day?

It is somewhat hard to be definitive in that regard, but the fact that I have that commitment has a tremendous subjective impact on decisions that I have to make, and some of these are very "close calls" as we say.

When some of these very difficult decisions have to be made by me in the Oval Office, I don't hesitate to ask for guidance through prayer.

Prayer is very important to me. From Proverbs, I have a favorite verse which I express daily, and have for a good many years. It is a daily source of strength for me: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; lean not to thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths."

How does a person's private moral conduct affect his ability to serve in public office?

As a Christian, I strive to live up to the moral code as set forth in the Ten Commandments and in the teachings of Jesus.

As a public official, I feel that I am responsible to conduct myself privately so as to earn the respect of those I serve and those with whom I work.

The most effective public servants I have known were those who had a high moral code in their personal life.

We cannot stand very long on the shifting sands of "situation ethics." History proves that power and prestige are slippery peaks from which the mighty have often fallen into disgrace. Jesus said, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

We stand in danger today of losing the soul of America to the seductions of material gain and moral apathy, to a new code of conduct which reviles the basic truths and mocks the fundamental beliefs on which this Nation and much of religion were founded.

Public officials have a special responsibility to set a good example for others to follow, in both their private and public conduct. The American people, particularly our young people, cannot be expected to take pride or even to participate in a system of government that is defiled and dishonored, whether in the White House or in the halls of Congress.

Jesus said, "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required." Personal integrity is not too much to ask of public servants. We should accept nothing less.

The American people have seen too much abuse of the moral imperatives of honesty and of decency upon which religion and government and civilized society must rest. To remedy these abuses we must look not only to the government but, more importantly to the Bible, the church, the human heart.

In your view, is there any threat to religious liberty by big government and expanding government regulations?

I have said on numerous occasions that a government big enough to give us everything we want is a government big enough to take from us everything we have.

I have also stated that what we need is not bigger government but better government. I am sympathetic with most Americans who are fearful that government can become so large and we can be burdened with so many regulations that our individual liberties may be taken from us little by little. As long as I am President, I will resist government bureaucracies intruding into the free religious institutions of America.

We want the freedom in America to choose our own course, our own lives, to chart our own terms without having the government tell us everything we can or cannot do.

Do you propose any presidential initiatives on prayer and Bible reading in public schools?

I believe that prayer in public schools should be voluntary. It is difficult for me to see how religious exercises can be a requirement in public schools, given our constitutional requirement of separation of church and state.

I feel that the highly desirable goal of religious education must be principally the responsibility of church and home. I do not believe that public education should show any hostility toward religion, and neither should it inhibit voluntary participation, if it does not interfere with the educational process.

As long as this is the case, I do not plan any initiative.



You have already stated your opposition to abortion on demand. What actions do you propose to take to reduce the number of such abortions, especially those performed at governmental expense?

I have a deep concern about the rising tide of secularism. There is an apparent increase of irreverence for life. I do not believe in abortion on demand. I think the Supreme Court went too far in its 1973 decision which invalidated the rights of the states to make their own decisions on abortion. I disagree with the recent Supreme Court decision which permits abortion without the parents' permission. As I know, I have consistently opposed the 1973 decision of the Supreme Court, but as President, I am sworn to uphold the laws of the land, and I intend to carry out this responsibility. In my personal view, however, this court decision was unwise.

As Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, I co-sponsored an amendment which would restore this authority to the States, and I have consistently supported that position since that time. My position has been based on three fundamental convictions:

- I am against abortion on demand
- The people of every State should have the Constitutional right to control abortion
- There is a need to recognize and provide for exceptional cases.

I should also point out that the Republican Platform which I support is fully consistent with these views.

Some problems are better dealt with by the church or in the home. Government cannot in and of itself solve every problem.

Americans have benefited greatly by our rich spiritual heritage. The sound, sensible lessons of goodness imparted by religious teachers and devoted parents have done more than anything else to prepare our children for life.

What is your view of homosexual relations?

I hold a personal viewpoint that homosexual relations are wrong. I have always tried to be understanding and fair about people whose views are different from my own. That does not mean that I always agree with what they do or with what they believe. I just think we have to be considerate and respectful of others.

The teachings of the Bible are very explicit on this matter and when you consider it in a Biblical context, in my view homosexuality is morally wrong.

Many Christians are more interested in freedom to operate their religious and non-public schools without influence by and interference from governmental agencies than they

are in subsidies. Are you concerned to safeguard this freedom?

This question gets back to the subject of big government and excessive government intrusion through a morass of bureaus and regulations. I have already stated my opposition to this.

This question also suggests the reaffirmation of something that I believe in very strongly, that there should be a wall of separation between church and state. Government should not be allowed to control any of our religious institutions.

I have a long standing commitment to diversity in American education. We need our non-public schools. I also have a long standing commitment to limited government, freedom of religion, and the separation of church and state.

If any alleged abuses by the FBI and the CIA are proven true, what do you think should be done?

America's intelligence agencies are vitally important to our Nation's security. They are essential in wartime, but they are also essential in peacetime. They are the best insurance we have that we will not be caught napping.

We have to keep strong our intelligence gathering arms, the FBI and the CIA. Without the excellent crime fighting skills of the FBI this country would be at the mercy of lawlessness, and without the intelligence gathering mechanism of the CIA, we would be at the mercy of international lawlessness.

As to proven and alleged abuses, as President I will not tolerate any improper activities. I have attempted during my Administration to strengthen the intelligence community and at the same time to assure the prevention of abuses by the intelligence community against American citizens. We now have very specific guidelines defining what the intelligence agencies can and cannot do. If those guidelines are ignored, the persons responsible will be held fully accountable.

I have great confidence that both the FBI and the CIA will do an effective job in helping to keep Americans safe at home and America safe in the world.

Do you think world Communism is a threat to freedom in the world today, and if so, what responsibilities does America have in this regard?

The actions of our adversaries, as we have known them over the last four decades, have indeed been a threat to freedom in the world, but it is not nearly as great a threat to freedom and world peace so long as America is strong and determined. I see clearly the expansionist desires of some countries and their leaders, and as President I have sternly resisted their efforts. It is essential to world stability that American defenses and those of our allies be maintained. As President, I have consistently proposed the necessary funds to make sure of our military capability in order that we may play our necessary role in helping to maintain peace and stability in the world.

While I have often stated my opposition to the basic philosophy of our adversaries, I would not like to see us return to the cold war or return to an uncontrolled arms race. Confrontation is not only costly; it is very dangerous. Therefore, we continue to maintain lines of communication and to create an improved climate, one with a minimum of distrust, so that hostilities are much less likely to occur.

From the standpoint of the world-wide missionary effort, I recognize the importance of world peace and world stability, for only then can these humanitarian efforts flourish.

Does the current state of crime and punishment call for any reform in the American judicial system, and if so, what do you recommend?

I share with millions of Americans their concern about the problem of crime. The preamble to our Constitution seeks "to insure domestic tranquility." It was John Locke who said "Where there is no law, there is no freedom."



- Establishment of "career criminal" programs designed to assure quick identification and prosecution of persons who repeatedly commit serious offenses.
- Continuation and expansion of programs designed to divert certain first offenders into rehabilitation prior to trial.
- Creation of additional Federal District Court judgeships and expansion of the criminal jurisdiction of United States Magistrates.
- Upgrading of prison facilities, including the replacement of large, outdated prisons with smaller, more modern ones.
- An increase this year in U.S. Attorneys prosecuting Federal crimes and reinforcement of the number of U.S. Marshals.

To keep a convicted criminal from committing more crimes we must put him in prison so he cannot harm more law-abiding citizens. To be effective, this punishment must be swift and certain.

I disagree with the concept of so-called "victimless crime." In many instances, although it may not be possible to identify a particular individual who is the victim, society itself is often the victim. For example, prostitution is a major source of income for organized crime. And clearly drug abuse is responsible for much of the more violent crimes in America today.

Society has made a judgment that these activities are illegal, and I firmly believe that those convicted of such offenses should be brought to justice. The law must be fairly, but firmly, enforced.

More importantly, these offenses threaten the moral fiber of our nation.

Some political observers feel that for the first time in over a decade religion has become an issue in a Presidential campaign. How do you feel about this emphasis on the religious views of a candidate?

I believe a candidate's personal religion is a proper concern for voters when they are choosing their President. However, I do not believe that it is proper for any political figure to deliberately exploit religion for his or her political advantage.

If I am asked about my beliefs, I will respond for I am proud of the convictions I hold.

If you are elected to a full, four-year term, what is your foremost hope for America?

My hope is that in working together we can build an America that does not merely celebrate history, but writes it -- that offers limited government and unlimited opportunity -- that concerns itself with a quality of life marked by strong and free religious institutions, homes which nurture the young, weaving a strong moral fiber for future generations, an America where the other basic institutions in education and industry are solidly grounded and productive for the good of all who live in this great land.

