

November 15, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

PRESIDENT FORD'S FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

President Ford will mark his first 100 days in office tomorrow, one day before leaving on his first overseas trip. A brief review of the Ford Administration at this point discloses a notable number of achievements.

From the outset, President Ford set a tone of stability and continuity in foreign policy, openness and candor in domestic affairs, cooperation and reasonableness in his dealings with the Congress. Here, in summary form, are some highlights of his first 100 days as President of the United States.

In line with his pledge of an open administration, Mr. Ford took an unprecedented action. He not only sponsored a series of mini-summit conferences on the economy culminating in a two-day televised Economic Summit, but personally presided over many of the meetings. He has had the broadest exposure to economic views of any of our Presidents.

Following up on the Economic Summit, President Ford laid a 31-point program before the Congress designed to attack the problem of spiralling prices and other weaknesses in the economy -- a program of action which will help add balance and vitality to our economy.

In other activity directed at the nation's economic ills, President Ford moved in on possible price-fixing in the food industry and spearheaded an effort to reduce our dependence on foreign petroleum.

At the President's direction, the Justice Department is probing the pricing of meat, milk, bread, sugar, eggs and other food staples under orders to crack down on price fixers. The President has also asked the Justice Department to move against fee fixing by professionals, such as doctors, lawyers and real estate agents.

On the oil front, President Ford effected two-pronged action. He appealed to his countrymen to voluntarily cut back on the use of gasoline and ordered a reduction in fuel use by the Federal Government. Most recently, he created a new energy program management team, which will concentrate both on conserving energy and expanding energy supplies.

In pursuit of world peace, President Ford dispatched Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on a number of overseas missions and pressed repeatedly for solutions to the Cyprus situation and the conflict between Arabs and Israelis.

The President underscored the continuity of American foreign policy and our constant striving for peace throughout the world by meeting with the Ambassadors of numerous countries, including the NATO ambassadors. He also met with the leaders of Israel, Jordan, Poland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Australia, Austria, Mexico, Bangladesh, Somalia and Liberia, and met with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Israel, India, Argentina, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, Indonesia, Italy, West Germany, France, Brazil, South Vietnam and Pakistan.

In addition, he will visit Japan, South Korea, and the Soviet Union during the week of November 18. A December meeting has also been scheduled in Martinique with the President of France and diplomatic relations have been established with East Germany.

From his very first day in office, President Ford has felt that one of his chief responsibilities is to work with the Congress in a spirit of conciliation and compromise. He has done that, and the fruits of this joint effort are visible for all Americans to see -- landmark legislation in the fields of education, housing, pension reform, campaign and energy problem-solving.

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 was far-reaching because it helped boost the long-range prospects for the housing market. But it is also historic because it replaces seven categorical grant programs with a single block grant program for community development.

Acutely aware of the depressed state of the housing industry, President Ford acted to bolster it by asking Congress for emergency legislation. The Congress quickly responded with a bill designed to help ease the home loan credit crunch and spur the building of 100,000 houses.

Subsequently, the President also signed another bill boosting the availability of mortgage money -- a measure returning to institutions insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) more than \$1 billion in insurance premiums over the next ten years not now required by the FSLIC.

A hallmark of the Ford Administration in all fields has been the openness and candor to which President Ford has committed his administration from the very beginning. By holding frequent press conferences and meeting individually and with groups of newsmen, he has honored his pledge to both the press and the public to have an open Administration.

Briefly, here are some of the other key actions that have distinguished the Ford Administration's first 100 days. President Ford has:

- * Called upon all Americans to enlist in a volunteer campaign to fight inflation;
- * Established a national Council on Wage and Price Stability;
- * Succeeded in getting a \$54 rollback in the price of 1975 General Motors cars;
- * Issued an Executive Order limiting White House access to income tax returns;
- * Launched a program of conditional amnesty for draft evaders and military deserters;
- * Helped shape a mass transit bill into a 6-year \$12 billion measure that is expected to be passed during the lame-duck session of Congress in an acceptable form;
- * Negotiated a workable compromise which will hopefully permit passage this year of much needed foreign trade reform legislation;
- * Moved to cut fiscal 1975 Federal spending by close to \$5 billion and to aim for a balanced budget for fiscal 1976;
- * Met, individually, with five major American labor leaders -- George Meany of the AFL-CIO, Frank Fitzsimmons of the Teamsters, Leonard Woodcock of the United Auto Workers, Arnold Miller, of the United Mine Workers, and Paul Hall of the Seafarers;
- * Met with leaders of national women's organizations;
- * Met with representatives of the National Governors Conference, the National Association of County Officials, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities, and State Legislative leaders;
- * Met with the Congressional Black Caucus and with civil rights leaders from throughout the country;

- * Met with representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce;
- * Visited the House and Senate and held a series of open door Congressional meetings in the Oval Office; and
- * Appeared personally before a House Judiciary Subcommittee to discuss his pardon of former President Nixon.

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