

## Ford Donates Papers to U.S., Sets Mich. Site

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President Ford yesterday donated the papers and memorabilia of his 21 years in public life to the federal government on condition they be preserved and exhibited in the state of Michigan.

In a letter to United States archivist James B. Rhoads and University of Michigan President Robben W. Fleming, the President directed that the papers be stored in a Gerald R. Ford library at the university. He instructed that the memorabilia be displayed at a museum to be built in Grand Rapids, which Ford represented for 25 years in the House.

The university has made plans for

the library on the basis of a long-standing Ford promise to donate his congressional papers to his alma mater.

Philip W. Buchen, White House counsel and Ford's onetime law partner in Grand Rapids, said that funds for the museum and library will be raised by private subscription in a national campaign.

Rhoads said the U.S. government will spend about \$900,000 a year to maintain the two facilities once they are built, a figure he said is comparable to what the government spends on each of six existing presidential libraries.

Ford's offer, which will be accepted by the government and the university subject to review of Congress, was the first one by a President to donate his papers while he was in office.

While Buchen said that Ford was

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# Ford Donates His Papers to Government

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not in any way attempting to establish a pattern for Jimmy Carter or any future President, the donation of the papers and memorabilia is likely to be a precedent.

All presidents from George Washington through Lyndon B. Johnson took their papers with them when they left office. But Richard M. Nixon's attempt to do this was blocked by congressional passage of the Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation act, which Nixon is challenging in the Supreme Court.

The decision in the Nixon case is considered unlikely to settle the broad question of who owns presidential papers. But Buchen said that Ford's action yesterday will be welcomed by a study commission created by Congress which is supposed to make recommendations on the question of ownership of public papers.

Included in the letter of donation were all papers, documents, correspondence, notes, books, photographs, films, recordings, works of art and other related material gathered by Ford during his years in Congress, the vice presidency and the White House.

Rhoads said the material will fill 11,355 cubic feet of space and contains between 25 million and 30 million pieces of paper. If the President had merely donated the material, without stipulating its preservation in Michigan, the archives would have had to build or rent a building to store the massive collection, Rhoads said.

The President's offer was to convey "rights, title and interest" in all of this material provided his conditions for preservation were met. Ford also conveyed any literary property rights in the unpublished portion of the donated materials, but reserved copyright on published works or those he may publish in the future.

The President plans to write a book once he is out of office.

This was made clear yesterday by Dean Burch, a former White House adviser and onetime Federal Communications Commission chairman whom Ford hired yesterday as his private counsel after he leaves the White House.

Burch said he had contracted with Norman Brokaw, a vice president of the William Morris Agency, to act for the Ford family in literary and related matters. He said he expects this to include a book plus any serialization and television rights.

During the five remaining weeks of the Ford administration, the various academic and commercial offers that the President has received will be referred to Burch, who said he will make recommendations upon which Ford will decide when he becomes a private citizen.