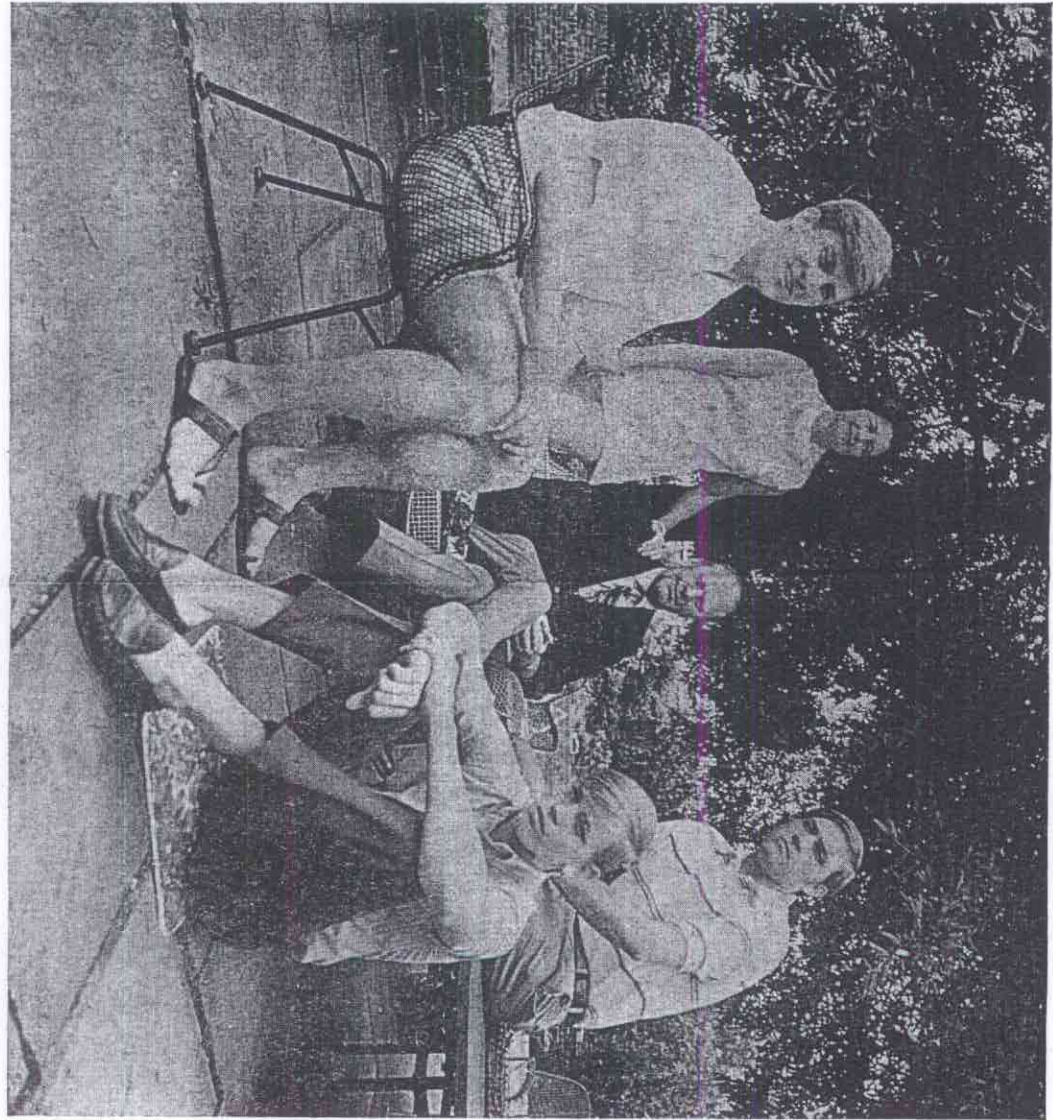


SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1970

G1



Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Ford and family in their home in Alexandria.

By Steve Sabes—The Washington Post

## Gerald Ford: The Crusader The Man Who Wants Justice Douglas Gone

By Myra MacPherson

House Minority Leader Gerald Ford has been called a combination of Tom Swift and Horatio Alger.

He is easily pictured as a small town Keweenaw president, organizer of the Jaycees and Boy Scout Troop leader.

Colleagues describe him as pleasant, dogged, straightforward, ambitious and humorless. On first meeting, Ford appears to be a cordial man who sincerely believes in all that embodies what has now become a cliché—the American way of life.

Gerald Ford brings this personality to a job that requires a measure of toughness and unwavering dedication to the Republican nomination. His congressional battles, it is somewhat difficult to know whether it is his personality or his partisanship that shapes his reaction.

For example, Ford currently is crusading for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Democrats and critics say the move to impeach Douglas is purely political—a Republican retaliatory measure for the defeat of G. Harold Carwell's nomination to the Supreme Court. Ford seems to have other reasons for highlighting the investigation. He shows genuine shock at the behavior and writings of the four-times married Justice.

A few months ago, when part of Douglas' controversial book, *Rebels in Heaven*, was reprinted in *Evergreen* magazine, Ford said, "I there was over my desk, about the need to impeach Justice Douglas. It was eliminated by publication of the *Abyss* issue of *Evergreen* magazine."

Why is writing a book critical of the Establishment, and having parts of it appear in a magazine considered by many to be pornographic, an impeachable offense?

Wearing his Burning Tree Country Club blazer, Ford sat down and dipped the foot in a hot fluid in his handy pipe and brick kitchen "I don't think a man's lifestyle or his writings are impeachable," he said. "But for a Supreme Court Justice to be reprinted in that magazine... Have you seen *Evergreen*? Several pages prior to his article there is as much hard core pornography of a man and woman as you can get."

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# Gerald Ford: the Crusader

FORD, From G1

He said that by allowing his writings to appear in a magazine like that, Douglas "shows some degree of insensitivity to his responsibility as one of the nine justices on the Supreme Court" and to "the popular conception of the role of the Supreme Court Justice."

As for others, such as Senators who have had articles published in Playboy, Ford said, "That's different. A Senator is elected every six years. There's a check and balance."

Ford says that the comments of Vice President Agnew or any other elected official are also different.

"The public citizen has a check rein," by refusing to vote for the person. But with the Supreme Court Justice, who is appointed for life, there is no check, "except the impeachment process."

Only in passing does Ford mention the charge of financial conflict of interest against Douglas—his connection with the Parvin Foundation, which had ties with Las Vegas casinos.

Ford again brings up the morality issue when speaking of Michigan's liberal Senator Philip Hart and his wife—she was convicted of violating an ordinance while taking part in a peace Mass at the Pentagon. Ford says, only half in jest, "Well, he's (Hart) had only one wife, that I know of."

A strong moralistic attitude about life and marriage

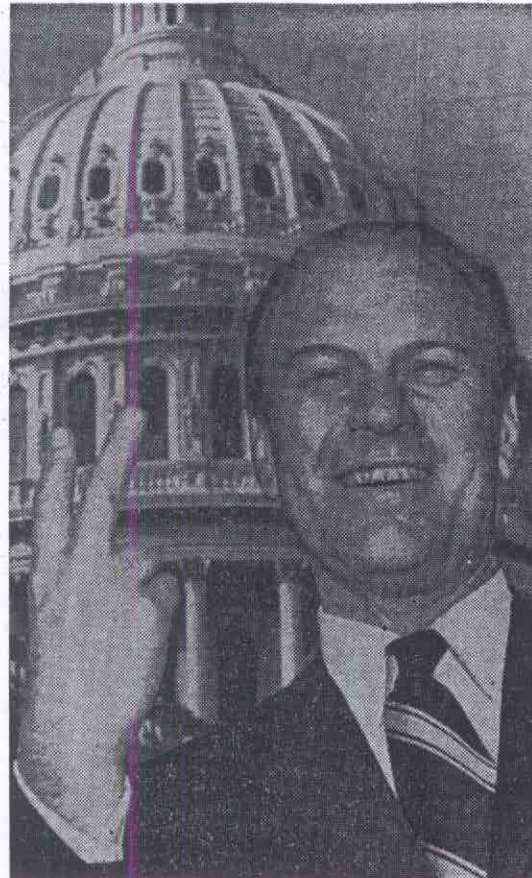
was easy to acquire in the kind of middle-America Ford was exposed to. He grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he won all-state honors in high school football and went to church often. His wife, Betty, used to teach Sunday School and Ford sometimes ushers at the Episcopal church his family attends near their home in Alexandria.

The Fords are conventional, pleasant and self-styled squares. Mrs. Ford said, "Jack (their 18-year-old son) told me the other night we were too conservative. I said, 'don't you know, Jack, we're just . . .' and then she finished the sentence by making the shape of a square in the air."

Ford said, "I learned something from Jack. I implied all long-haired people were liberals and he corrected me. He said some were very conservative."

The Ford home is an unpretentious suburban home, with a green and blue living room, knotty pine den off the kitchen, a patio and pool built nine years ago when Ford felt he wasn't getting enough exercise. He uses it religiously at 6:15 in the morning, five months of the year.

There is an American flag on the front door screen and several elephants—ceramic, glass, papier mache—around the house. In their bedroom is a picture of Mrs. Ford and a family friend, General



Gerald Ford and a sign of the times.

William Westmoreland. Pinned on a bulletin board in the bedroom is a poem, "Just a Boy." ("Got to Understand the Lad, He's Not Eager To Be Bad . . .").

Mrs. Ford is a tall, slim woman who was a fashion coordinator before her marriage. Her sons think she looks like Lady Bird Johnson, and there is some resemblance.

Mike, 20, puts his arm around his mother and said, "She holds down the fort. She's the anchor for the

whole family."

Mrs. Ford said that she was "fairly firm" about raising Jack, Mike, Steven, 14, and Susan, who will be 13 this month.

"Gerry was gone a lot. It was not difficult, but challenging to be in a way both a mother and father. Of course, when Daddy was coming home it was a big event. Naturally, Gerry didn't want to come home to problems. He wanted it to be happy."

Ford instinctively defends the administration's foreign policy. When told that someone had called him a "natural born hawk," Ford laughed and said, "I believe we have to be prepared. We also have to have the conviction to use our strength." He is pro-ABM, and refers often to the Communist threat.

"I think you have to find a proper balance between defense expenditures and non-defense. In the world in which we live today, when there are potential threats from the Soviet Union and other Communists, we can't afford to be unprepared."

He feels the U.S. must constantly advance its weaponry because "the Soviet Union has gone up dramatically in strategic capability."

Ford sees meaning in the conflict in Vietnam. "The actions of five presidents have been aimed at keeping us as a global power. That's our fate, whether we like it or not."

As for giving priority to domestic problems, Ford said, "If we lose (in conflicts), we don't have the opportunity to do any of these things at home."

Of his own domestic record he commented, "I was one of the cosponsors of the President's family assistance program and cosponsor of water pollution and solid waste proposals."

Ford, who turned down pro football offers to go to Yale law school, relaxes with his family in a way he knows well — sports. They take skiing vacations together and he takes the boys out for golf and tennis.

His sons are conservative, like their father and have

volunteered to campaign for Republican candidates this fall.

Mike, who went off on a Sigma Chi fraternity weekend with classmates at Wake Forest University during the May protest against our involvement in Cambodia, said, "I argue a lot about the war in college. The college atmosphere is antiwar. I more or less try to defend us in general and President Nixon. I get a lot more information."

Looking at his father he said, "I have much better resources, although we're the ones who have to bring politics up when Dad's home."

"I think some students are dogmatic and really don't try to listen to anyone else," he added.

But there has been a change in Mike.

"I was for bombing Hanoi at one point, but by viewpoint changed in school. Now I just want to get out of the war."

Ford thinks our involvement in Cambodia will be considered a success and will help, rather than hinder, Republicans in congressional elections this year.

Referring to Nixon's acceptance of a hard hat from the construction workers who support him, Ford said, "Well, I think he has to listen to everybody. He has to acknowledge those who support him and they certainly dramatically support his policy."

Nixon, whom he has known for 20 years, talks to Ford two or three times a week on the phone. They both have an affinity not only in politics but in their love of sports.

This was not the case with Ford and Lyndon B. Johnson. Once, when President Johnson was angered at Ford's ability to trim some of Johnson's pet Great Society programs, he took a slam at Ford's mental capabilities.

Tapping his head in mock sorrow the President is reported to have said, "Too bad, too bad—that's what happens when you play football too long without a helmet."

The other day Ford laughed at that and said, "you know, we've now become very good friends."