

FORD VOWS CURB ON SOCIAL OUTLAYS

He Warns G.O.P. Women in a Tough Speech in Dallas of Peril to the Economy

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

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DALLAS, Sept. 13—President Ford declared here today that he was "fed up" with pessimism about America and determined to reverse a trend toward social spending that "literally threatens our whole economy."

In the most slashing partisan address of his Presidency, Mr. Ford told more than 1,000 wildly cheering delegates to the convention of the National Federation of Republican Women that he would use his veto "again and again and again" to prevent liberal Democrats from enacting new and larger social programs.

"Trend Must Be Reversed"

Meanwhile, Vice President Rockefeller completed his second trip to the South in less than a month, insisting that he was seeking support for President Ford's programs and the Republican party and not for his own nomination as Vice President. [Page 25.]

In his Dallas speech, Mr. Ford said that if social spending continued at the same rate as it had over the last 20 years, "by the year 2000 half the people of this nation will be living off the other half."

"That's a significant change in our form of Government," he added. Pounding the lectern in the Dallas Convention Center, he said: "This trend must be reversed—and it will be reversed."

He indirectly criticized New York City's Democratic admin-

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istration as one that "hasn't or won't responsibly manage its fiscal affairs" and he brought his audience of Republican women to its feet, cheering and applauding, by pledging to "find a better way" to provide quality education than through court-enforced busing.

Following the attack on what he called a "tidal wave" of social spending fostered by Democrats, Mr. Ford joined former Secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally and 150 couples who had paid \$1,000 apiece to the Republican party to attend a barbecue lunch on the sprawling estate of Trammel Crow, a Dallas real estate developer. Mr. Ford's schedule also called for going to Midland, Tex., to dedicate a museum honoring pioneers of the oil industry.

Amid strict security precautions in the city where President Kennedy was slain nearly 12 years ago, Mr. Ford said at an airport news conference that he would consider it "unwise" to reopen the investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

In reply to questions, Mr. Ford said that "it never entered my mind" to recall the 1963 slaying of Mr. Kennedy despite

the alleged attempt on his own life in Sacramento, Calif., eight days ago.

Backs Warren Inquiry: Nor, the President said, did he consider recent disclosures about Lee Harvey Oswald, the presumed slayer of Mr. Kennedy, sufficient to take a new look at the conclusions of the Warren Commission on which Mr. Ford sat as a member of Congress a dozen years ago. The panel concluded that Oswald had killed Mr. Kennedy and has acted alone.

"The Warren Commission did an excellent job," he said. "We had all of the evidence that was available and, based on that evidence, I think the right decision was made."

Dallas newspapers have disclosed in the last several weeks that the Federal Bureau of Investigation destroyed a note from Oswald that threatened to take some unspecified action against the bureau. The note was said to have been delivered to the Dallas office of the F.B.I. a few days before Mr. Kennedy was shot and killed.

Later, at a convocation celebrating the 60th anniversary



Associated Press
President Ford with John B. Connally in Dallas

of the founding of Southern Methodist University, the President received an honorary doctorate of laws after challenging educators to "encourage human growth which can transcend from despair to dynamism."

Repeating some of the themes of his address to the Republican women's organization, but with a considerably more muted

tone, the President said that the United States was going through a period of economic, social and technological trials but "this nation is not disintegrating."

More bluntly, to the party audience, the President warned of individuals who were promoting what he termed a "self-fulfilling prophecy of doom for America." He did not identify these persons but said:

"I have heard much too much from people who say everything is falling apart, how the quality of life is sliding downhill, how the job is worthless, how muggers and murderers are keeping everyone behind locked doors and how even the President of the United States should stop visiting public places and seeing the American people."

"I've had it with that attitude!" he shouted.

"I did not take the sacred oath of office to preside over the decline and fall of America," he added.

Although Mr. Ford's trip was described by the White House as one mixing official and party leadership roles—not one promoting his own candidacy for a full term as President—he spoke to the women's federation in the time-honored phrases of one seeking personal political support.

He said that liberal Demo-

crats in Congress and elsewhere who advocated diversion of defense funds to social spending programs were "dead wrong" and that his "only weapon" against social spending that will "eat up more than 45 per cent" of this year's Federal budget, was the veto.

Opinion pollsters will not be the only ones asking questions in 1976, Mr. Ford said, reeling off a list of his own.

Questions And Answers

"Do you want your President to accept without a question budget-busting appropriations bills," he asked.

"No!" chorused the audience.

"Do you want your President to open the United States treasury to every city that hasn't or won't responsibly manage its fiscal affairs?" He went on, in an evident reference to in an evident reference to spurned pleas of New York City for Federal assistance.

"No!" shouted the Republican women.

"Do you want your President to roll over and play dead as Congress passes more and more legislation to strangle free enterprises" he asked.

The audience chorused "No." again. But the women merely laughed when Mr. Ford said, "Do you want to be deep in the sear of Texas or deep in the heart of taxes."

Embellishing a theme he has stated frequently in the last few weeks as tensions rose in Boston and Louisville, Ky. over court-ordered busing to desegregate public schools, Mr.

Ford said, "Regardless of how we individually might feel, the law of the land must be upheld."

But he said he had believed since the 1954 Supreme Court ruling calling for desegregation of schools that "there is a better way to achieve quality education than by forced busing."

The Republican women rose to their feet, cheering and applauding for almost a minute.

They did so again when Mr. Ford said it would be preferable to improve teacher pupil ratios and upgrade schools in deprived areas and "rely more heavily on the neighborhood school concept."

The President made no mention of his recent veto of a \$7.9-billion Federal appropriation for aid to elementary and secondary schools that Congress overrode by large margins on Wednesday.

Nor did Mr. Ford cite any specific alternatives to Federal assistance to the socially deprived. But he spoke broadly of a vision of a third American century in which "the individual, not the Government, makes personal decisions."

"I am proud," he said, "of a free economic system which corrects its own errors, controlled by the market place of free and enlightened consumerism."