



# Washington Spectator

Every Two Weeks by Tristram Coffin - A Privately Circulated Newsletter

## The Looking Glass World of Jerry Ford

"There's no use trying," she (Alice) said: "one can't believe impossible things."

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes, I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

On Jan. 22, President Ford broke bread (prime filet mignon . . . grand mariner souffle glace) with the nation's corporate leaders. His "25-minute address to the Conference Board was interrupted more than a dozen times by ringing applause," reports the Board's house organ. He said:

"In order to insure adequate investment, we must end the long-term down-trend in corporate profits. My tax program moves in this direction, by leaving more business earnings in the private sector, where they can be invested in increased productivity and new jobs."

Yet, profits before taxes increased at an annual rate of 45% in the first half of 1974; this at a time when the GNP was dropping and unemployment rising. (*New Times*) Profits for the third quarter were "a record \$157 billion," *Business Week* reports. Samples: International Minerals & Chemicals up 361%, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical up 189%, Amstar 276%, A.E. Staley Manufacturing 432%. U.S. Steel's profits for the year were up 95% and came "largely from higher prices," says the *New York Times*.

A Department of Commerce report finds - undistributed profits of non-financial corporations rose from \$20.8 billion in 1972 to \$41.9 billion in the 3rd quarter last year. This is a "doubling of withheld profits after taxes and dividends," a letter to the *Times* points out. The writer suggests "the increase in undistributed profits . . . might be used to restore quite a number of workers to gainful employment without tapping the public till. This would increase industrial efficiency and help greatly to pump new life into that other tender plant known as confidence. . . . Or is it untouchable, and if so, why?"

**THE LOCKED-IN PROFIT** - This is a system by which the Government guarantees high profits, often at a cost to consumers, by loans, subsidies, tax loopholes, and regulations. Example:

- Presidential press secretary Ron Nessen "said the President believed that a minimum price for imported oil was necessary so that the Arab nations would not slash prices so low that domestic producers would be undercut. He wants

to tell you very strong he has made such a decision." (*Washington Post*)

There is even a suspicion the Administration would go back to war to guard the profits of big oil. "The US purpose in Vietnam is to protect the holdings and long-term leases awarded by Thieu to Exxon, Mobil, Shell and other American companies. Recent oil strikes . . . in Vietnamese coastal waters are reflected in Pentagon action. . . . The government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation has received applications from the oil companies to guarantee their Vietnam operations. Under OPIC provisions up to 80% . . . of operations can be assured." This is from *Another Mother for Peace*, which also reports, from private oil sources, that Mobil is getting 2400 barrels a day from its strike off the coast of Vietnam. *Agence France Presse* in a Washington dispatch quotes two Republican Senators as saying President Ford wants the extra \$300 million for South Vietnam to, among other things, protect US petroleum interests in the area.

**VIETNAM AND THE FUEL SHORTAGE** - At the height of US involvement in Vietnam the military was consuming 8% of all oil in the US; the bombing of Cambodia used 3 million gallons a day, according to Rep. Ronald Dellums (D-Ca.) As of today, we are sending 65,000 barrels a day to support current military operations in SE Asia. "If the Defense Department were to curtail its fuel shipments to SE Asia and instead allocate the fuel to our over-the-road truckers, no fuel would have to be diverted from other sectors of the economy to satisfy the truckers' demands for 100% fuel allocation."

As an economic tool, the guaranteed profits system, or "trickle down" theory, is a flop. Last year's high profits did not bring a strong jump in productivity or GNP. Instead, employment sagged and inflation spurted.

*The New Republic* has a more sensible plan for "economic stability": "an immediate, temporary price-wage freeze," to be followed within 6 months or so by a "permanent system of selective standby controls"; "an imaginative public works and national renewal" program to employ around 3 million, and a tax increase when the economy recovers.

**THE SPENDING PARADOX** - President Ford also "labeled Federal spending as the country's 'foremost' problem, pointing out that total Government spending could eat up more than half of our GNP within the next

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"At a fund raising dinner for Vice President Rockefeller, President Ford said it is easier to negotiate with our country's adversaries than to negotiate with the Congress.

The audience howled its delight.

"Me, too.

"I mean, after all, this is the Administration that negotiated the Russian wheat deal." Rep. Andrew Jacobs, Jr., D-Ind.

two decades. 'We must turn this trend around,' he declared. 'That's what I intend to do.'" (Conference Board *Focus*)

Some Americans would not agree this is the "foremost problem." *US New & World Report* describes the plight of elderly persons: "For more and more of America's 21.8 million persons who are aged 65 and over, current runaway inflation is turning life on a fixed income into a deepening nightmare. . . . One frightened woman told an interviewer at a free medical clinic offering subsidized meals, 'I haven't a penny for food. I can eat here tomorrow, but then what can I do until Tuesday?'"

**THE FORD LOOKING GLASS BUDGET** - But take the President at his own word - that Government spending is the "foremost problem." His \$349 billion spending bill for the next fiscal year "is the highest budget in our history" with "substantial increases in foreign aid and for the Department of Defense," says an Appropriations Committee member, Rep. Joe L. Evins (D-Tenn).

*The New Republic* notes: "The defense budget request for fiscal 1976 is \$107 billion: an increase of \$15.7 billion in current dollars over this year's. . . . Thus while other Federal programs are undergoing retrenchment, the Pentagon's budget is heading for new heights."

Economist Seymour Melman points out that new weapons systems planned by the military will cost \$105.2 billion, or enough to totally clean the poison out of our environment. The cost of the B-1 bomber program would wipe out dire poverty.

In keeping with the philosophy of profits before people, "many social programs have suffered sharp setbacks" in the Ford budget, the *Times* says. Examples: \$1 billion less for health, including research on heart disease and cancer, \$1 billion less for education, cuts in Federal grants to states for social services. Also, Ford would hold Social Security benefit increases to 5% instead of the 8.7% cost-of-living increase set for this summer, increase charges for Medicare patients, and, the *Times* notes, make "other efforts to pass the burdens of the economy to those least able to afford them."

When the President did release funds for jobs, he gave \$2 billion to build roads; this at a time he was asking people to drive less to save fuel.

**LOOKING GLASS PEACE** - President Ford talks often of the need for peace. Yet, as former Ambassador Charles W. Yost states: "The US is now the world's largest exporter of arms. . . . US arms exports in 1973 were approximately twice as extensive as those of the Soviet Union. . . . War, not peace, may be the more likely ultimate consequence. Moreover, as we learned to our cost in Vietnam, arms supplies may be the first slope on a long

toboggan ride." (*Monitor*) He explains we must then train those to whom we give arms. This means US military advisers who, if war breaks out, "may be asked to give advice in the field, to pilot planes, to fire rockets. At the end of the toboggan slide the US may find itself in a prolonged local war or drawn into another confrontation with the Soviet Union."

The *Times* reports the US is "training military personnel in 34 countries," particularly in the explosive Middle East.

This area is kept armed in large part by the US. American arms for Israel in fiscal 1974 were worth \$2.5 billion, and for Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait \$4.4 billion and will reach up to \$6 billion this year. Americans are being recruited "to train Saudi Arabian troops to protect oilfields." Against whom? The only nation which has so far suggested attacks on the Arab oil fields is the US. Ambassador Yost asks, "Is this a healthy and necessary enterprise for the US to conduct on such a scale?"

The Ford Administration is resuming arms deliveries to Pakistan, to the dismay of neighboring India, and to Ethiopia, gripped by a civil war with Eritrean nationals who, in turn, are being supplied by Arab nations.

To top it off, the Administration has set up an illegal device in its arms trade, according to House Armed Service Committee member Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) "The Pentagon's . . . sales of US equipment to foreign nations are not supposed to cost the taxpayers anything. But now, the Pentagon has set up a \$300 million slush fund to help subsidize fancy new weapons for oil sheiks and dictators."

**OBSERVING THE LAW, LOOKING GLASS WAY** - The President is evading the law in another way. Congress put a taboo on financing "military or paramilitary operations . . . in or over Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia." Yet, the *Washington Post* reports: "The US Air Force planes that daily touch down into this blockaded capital (Phnom Penh, Cambodia), well within the range of rebel rockets, bring in American ammunition from an American-manned base in Thailand. Yet the Air Force markings on the planes have been painted over. . . . The tanned crew-cut pilots who fly the borrowed planes are . . . 'retired' Air Force pilots." The *Times* adds: the Air

"There was something too impersonal about the wording of President Ford's proposal to limit the cost of living increases during the next year for Social Security recipients and pensioners. . . . He might more accurately and honestly have addressed the people whom his proposal would affect. He might have said, 'I'm asking you, aged mothers and fathers of the US, to eat a little less, live in colder homes, wear more threadbare clothing and discontinue any expenditures that are not essential to bare survival.'

"Ford did not make similar demands on wage earners, for whom he proposed tax rebates, or on the corporations, for whom he has proposed greater tax credits. . . . The elderly are among the politically helpless of the nation. They are an easy target." *Norwich (Conn.) Bulletin*

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"Now that the national marketplace is a meeting place for government and big business, I feel compelled to renew my pledge: I pledge allegiance to oil depletion allowance, and to the corporations for which they stand. One profit . . . under Ford . . . indivisible . . . with unemployment and welfare for all." *Los Angeles Times* opposite editorial page.

Forces loans the planes, gratis, to "Bird Air" (apparently a CIA cover); the Air Force provides fuel and all maintenance; the crews get reserve credits for making the runs.

Anthony Lewis asks: "Men otherwise committed to honor the law have become inured to cheating and suppressing the truth. What is to be thought of an end that requires such means?" The question should be directed to the Commander-in-Chief.

**SOME MODEST SUGGESTIONS** - The real problem is - the US President has too much power, is isolated, surrounded by fawning courtiers, and subjected only to cheering audiences. Fresh ideas and the hot breath of public opinion rarely reach him.

The SE Asia war became a major conflict because Lyndon Johnson could not bear to let his machismo down. The Watergate crimes arose from Richard Nixon's obsession with destroying his political enemies. Gerald Ford's sock-the-poor program comes from his admiration for corporate managers. So, we suggest:

- A Legislative Council of five or seven members; require the President to meet with this Congressional delegation once a week to discuss plans and policies. This would not only flush out questionable operations but bring in new ideas.
- A motion of censure as a way short of impeachment to warn a President he is getting off the reservation.
- A permanent Special Prosecutor, appointed by the Supreme Court, whose job is to search out and prosecute violations of law by officers of the Government.
- A Contract Board to award all government contracts over \$1 billion. This would knock out the Presidential practice of using government contracts to bend key members of Congress.

**FORD AND "WHITE WASH IV"** - The President's decision "without any question of a doubt" to run in 1976 may be altered by a resolution sitting in the House Rules Committee. For its passage by the House could plunge Ford into a damaging controversy labeled by investigator-author Harold Weisberg as "White Wash IV."

Even if Ford can be shown only as too willing to accept a theory propounded by the FBI, the subject is so loaded with passions, public prejudices, mystery and folk myths, he would be bruised by the mere exposure. For more than 10 years, the subject - the assassination of John F. Kennedy - has been stirred by private investigations, the so-called "underground press," tabloids sold at supermarkets, the lecture circuit, and Watergate. A result of this agitation is that 78% of Americans, according to a Gallup poll, disbelieve the Warren Commission.

The trouble for Ford is that he was the most vigorous defender of the Commission's "lone assassin" theory. He even gave his name to a ghost-written book, "Portrait of an Assassin."

Ford, then only a conservative Michigan GOP Congressman, was named to the Warren Commission; this on the recommendation of Richard Nixon, the titular Republican leader.

The Commission relied upon the FBI for its investigations. At a Commission meeting Jan. 27, 1974, J. Lee Rankin, general counsel, said of the FBI: "They have decided it is Oswald who committed the assassination, they have decided that no one else was involved . . ."

Senator Richard Russell (D-Ga.) remarked, "They have tried the case and reached a verdict on every aspect."

Rep. Hale Boggs (D-La.) added, "You have put your finger on it."

This information has only recently been flushed out of Commission records tagged "Top Secret", by lawsuits under the "Freedom of Information Act." For reasons still a mystery, key records - including the spectograph analysis of the allegedly fatal bullet - have been suppressed.

On Feb. 19, Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.), listed by the *Almanac of American Politics* as one of "stubborn rectitude" and with "a sense of integrity," introduced his resolution. It calls for a select committee "to conduct an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of George Wallace," and have power to subpoena records and require witnesses to appear.

**THE EMBARRASSING NEW INFORMATION** - Within the last 18 months, information embarrassing to the FBI and, indirectly, Ford, has appeared. This includes:

- Before his death, Lyndon Johnson told interviewer Leo Janos: "I never believed that Oswald acted alone, although I can accept that he pulled the trigger."
- Senator Russell, the most influential member of the Senate, also believed in a conspiracy and asked Weisberg to help dig up facts to disprove the Commission's report "he had been tricked into agreeing to sign." ("White Wash IV", published privately by Weisberg, Route 8, Frederick, Md. 21701)
- Perhaps the nation's leading expert on forensic (legal) medicine, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, has written, "It is

On Jan. 27, 1964, a special meeting of the Warren Commission was called to discuss how to deal with a report from Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr. This was that Lee Harvey Oswald had been "employed by the FBI at \$200 a month from September of 1962 up to the time of the assassination." The FBI denied it.

Sen Richard Russell said, "If Oswald never had assassinated the President or at least been charged with assassinating the President and had been in the employ of the FBI and somebody had gone to the FBI, they would have denied he was an agent."

Allen Dulles, former CIA director; "Oh, yes."

Russell: "They would be the first to deny it. Your agents would have done exactly the same thing."

Dulles: "Exactly."

my judgment that more than one person was involved in the shooting of President Kennedy." Dr. Wecht, director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine at Duquesne Law School and coroner of Alleghany County, Pa., was allowed to inspect assassination materials in the National Archives. He wrote in *Modern Medicine* that "there was a second assassin most likely firing from the rear . . . (and) there might even have been shots fired from the so-called grassy knoll area."

- A film taken at the scene by Abraham Zapruder, a Dallas dress manufacturer, suggests that President Kennedy was hit by three bullets, and the fatal shot was not fired from the Texas School Book Depository, but from the front.

- A new book, "The Assassination Tapes" by George O'Toole, a former CIA technician, claims on the basis of a new study there was a conspiracy. This is from some 50 tapes of interviews with spectators of the assassination, Dallas police and persons associated with the Warren Commission. The tapes were subjected to a "Psychological Stress Evaluator" which detects stress in the human voice.

**THE FOLKLORE AND QUESTIONS** - Because of the lid of secrecy clamped on the assassination, and fantastic stories that keep emerging, a folklore has grown up around the Kennedy slaying. One is this was a job done by sinister forces within and without the Government. A paper by several scholar-investigators at Cambridge, "The Politics of Conspiracy", states: "We think that the question, 'Who Killed JFK?', remains the root political question of the current disorder, that it is the question that must be faced first. To face that question, to see into its meanings, is to understand much better what power is in American politics and how those who command and monopolize it have grown used to operating. It is to see all the shootings as connected events in a struggle for power, continuous through Watergate and the late CIA-IRS-FBI disclosures. It is this power struggle of a secret elite which must be broken up."

Several questions arise. Why was the FBI so eager to press the lone assassin theory? The son of the late Congressman Boggs reveals his father gave him

evidence that the FBI went to some lengths to discredit critics of the "lone assassin" theory. Young Boggs says that his father, a seasoned politician, was shocked at FBI tactics, including dossiers on the critics.

Two explanations have been offered.

- Any further investigation would blow the cover from US "assassination teams." LBJ told interviewer Janos of "a damned Murder Inc. . . . we had been operating . . . in the Caribbean." This was apparently a "Cuban Mafia" group under contract for dirty jobs in Central America. CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr reports that President Ford has mentioned that if the CIA probes "go too far" they might find it was involved in at least three assassinations of foreign officials in the 1960s or late 1950s. Ford reportedly said if these were uncovered "this would embarrass the government and damage relations with at least one foreign country."

- A view was expressed privately by President Johnson after the assassination that it was the work of a Communist power, and if this information came out public indignation would throw the US into war. This was used to persuade Chief Justice Warren to accept the chairmanship.

Was Representative Ford used as a tool by the FBI or other agencies to push through the "lone assassin" theory? He was sympathetic to the FBI, and seems to have a penchant for stumbling into cover-ups. On Oct. 3, 1972, Rep. Ford lined up Republicans and tory Democrats on the House Banking Committee to stop a request by Chairman Wright Patman for subpoenas to check the pay-offs to the Watergate burglars through foreign banks. He issued the Sunday all-encompassing pardon of Nixon in September 1974.

Ford has remained close to those who advised him on the Warren Commission. David M. Belin, a Commission counsel, reportedly "one of the lawyers who prepared the case against Lee Harvey Oswald", (*New York Times*) was named executive director of the commission to investigate the CIA. William T. Coleman Jr., a staff lawyer for the Warren Commission, has been nominated Secretary of Transportation.

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# SPECIAL REPORT



## Washington Spectator

A Privately Circulated Newsletter

Tristram Coffin, Editor

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### How to Bring Down Food Prices

Early this year, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz complained he "found it difficult to understand the public obsession with rising food prices," the *Washington Post* noted. The Secretary had just predicted a food price gain of 15% for the first half year. He went on to accuse Congressmen of "demagoging it on the food issue."

The *New York Times* reports from St. Petersburg, Fla.: "When Mrs. Elsie DeFratus could no longer afford the cost of living, she died. She was nearly 80 years old, and she had survived somehow for a long, long time on her meager widow's pension, frugally measuring it against the rising prices, scrimping and scraping and skipping meals . . . until finally on a recent morning at an ancient hotel, she crumpled quietly to the floor. . . . She weighed 76 pounds. An autopsy found no trace of food in her shrunken stomach. 'Malnutrition,' the coroner concluded . . ."

The *Manchester Guardian* describes the scene in a welfare office in northeast Minnesota, an area peopled with descendants of the original Scandinavian settlers: "Mainly though, the room teemed with children. Not the boisterous noisy all-American children you see in the prosperous white suburbs like Grosse Point, Chevy Chase and Shaker Heights, but sullen, pasty-faced children with scrawny necks who have neither enough to do nor to eat." But for food stamps, one family, that of Jim Mattheson, "would go hungry to bed every night." They have only \$60 a month for food and clothing.

Food stamp allotments, used by some 17 million Americans, do "not cover the cost of a basic economy diet, government figures showed," says

UPI. And the Gallup poll finds that the American family is paying "a record high" for its food - \$47 a week. This is more than four times the cost in 1942.

In the face of this, the Ford Administration wants to eliminate: "diet supplements for 650,000 low income women, infants and children; 2½ billion school lunches for children from middle-income homes; milk for tens of millions of young school children, all meals for any child in Day Care Center and Head Start Center programs, and all school breakfasts now served to 1½ million children," according to Senator George McGovern.

**WHO GETS THE GRAVY?** The total paid to the average farmer last year was \$50 less than 1973, but the cost to the average family went up \$200. This is the testimony of the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workers Union. Rep. Jerry Litton (D-Mo.) lists typical price spreads.

- The cost of corn in a 12-ounce box of cornflakes is 2.8¢; the retail charge 38.3¢. "The box costs more than that (2.8¢). The trinket in the box costs more than that. The advertising costs more than that." General Mills spent \$20 million in 1973 advertising one cereal, Wheaties.

- The Safeway price for a 303 can of spinach in 1973 was 25¢, and contained about 2¢ worth of spinach.

"U.S. No. 1 produce isn't always what it's cracked up to be in local supermarkets. The consumer's best bet . . . is to ignore the confusing and often meaningless USDA grades and buy by appearance." *Media & Consumer*

- In 1947-71, the retail price of a loaf of bread went from 13.5¢ to 24.8¢. The value of the wheat in the loaf dropped from 2.7¢ to 2.6¢.

The *Times* points out, "Most of the food industry's 12 largest processing companies continued to enjoy high profit gains in the third quarter as the nation's consumers experienced a 15% price squeeze on the cost of their household food budgets."

**INCREASING THE FOOD SUPPLY** - An obvious way to bring down food prices is to raise more food. Chairman Herman Talmadge of the Senate Agriculture Committee says, "Another 20 million acres of idle cropland can be made productive within a reasonably short period." James Baker of Gardens for All, a group promoting community gardening reports, "Thirty million more Americans would garden (for food) if they could find the place to do it. What's needed is a nationally coordinated effort to create a network of thriving community gardens."

It may be necessary to set aside good farmland in a national trust to keep it out of the hands of speculators, tax dodgers and real estate developers, who do not grow food.

Unfortunately, as the *Washington Monthly* points out, the Department of Agriculture "in its cupidity and its ignorance has done as much to hurt our food supply as any angry God imaginable." Examples:

- In 1972 when drought and typhoons had reduced world food supplies the Department decided to "withhold from production some 62 million acres of farmland. . . . The nearly \$4 billion paid to farmers to idle the land was almost double the

"In the food industry, four firms control 90% of the breakfast cereals, 75% of the bread and prepared flour, 56% of processed meats, 65% of sugar, 80% of canned goods, and 90% of soups. . . . A Federal Trade Commission study suggests that corporate control over just 13 food lines has resulted in price overcharges of \$2.1 billion." Senator James Abourezk (D-SD)

previous land payment." This, apparently, was a move to gain votes for Nixon by big payoffs to farmers. The mistake was compounded by selling Russia 18 million tons of US wheat. Wheat prices shot up 300%.

- One of the crops "American farmers had been paid not to grow in election year 1972" was soybeans, a high protein food. In 1972, with the failure of the Peruvian anchovy catch, the demand for soybeans soared. The US produces 75% of the world crop, and production can be raised only by planting more acres.

**CHANGE THE RULES** - The price of hamburger and bread has been pushed up by what the *Christian Science Monitor* calls "this deal between the Department of Agriculture and the grain farmers." This is a grading system which puts a "choice" label on grain fed beef, rather than range fed cattle. "If the feed lots are skipped, people food is saved and the cost of beef to the consumer drops as much as 50 cents a pound."

"Last year, the US fed over 40 million tons of grain and 5 million tons of soybeans and other high-protein concentrates to US beef cattle. . . . Each pound of weight gain in the feed lot takes roughly six pounds of grain fed to the animal. The total 1973 feed bill, which the consumer ended up paying, was over \$5 billion. In the diversion of huge quantities of food from humans to animals, the average steer eats enough while in the feed lot to keep six people alive for a year on a direct grain diet."

The writer, Prof. Roy L. Prosterman of the University of Washington, recommends "a change in the US beef-grading standards similar to changes made in Canada, so that leaner, lower-cholesterol beef is not misleadingly labeled as low-grade. A

new 'lean' grade should be established and probably a separate grading system for grass-fed beef. . . . There is no reason why all US table beef should not be grass-fed within another five years."

**NEW FARMING TECHNIQUES** - Aquaculture or fish farming is relatively new in the US, and today provides more than half the catfish and 10% of the salmon. Rep. Bill Chappell Jr. (D-Fla.) claims, "With the present state of aquaculture technology, it is estimated that production could be increased three to five times."

The University of Arizona has developed "desert food factories," reports *Technology Review*, and one is operating successfully in a sandy Arab sheikdom, Abu Dhabi, which exports tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers and peppers.

Other developments:

- The Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station believes the ability of peas and beans to get nitrogen out of the air can be transferred to other crops, and cut down fertilizer costs. City sludge and animal manure are efficient fertilizers, too.

- Scientists at Purdue University have developed a high-protein sorghum, the world's fourth largest cereal grain crop, which, when fed to baby rats, increases their weight three times faster than ordinary sorghum.

- Krill, a shrimp-like shellfish, "could provide a huge source of food for people," says Japan's Marine Resources Research Center. "It is the biggest source of animal protein left in the world today. Two hundred million

"President Ford and his wife signed a consumer pledge in which they promised to buy 'when possible, only those products and services at or below present levels.' The pledge, the President said, was his enrollment in what he hoped would be 'a concerted mass effort to stop inflation.'

"That same week, Mr. Ford gave a state dinner for the Austrian Chancellor. The menu included turtle soup, smoked salmon, breast of pheasant with wild rice, puree of chestnuts and 'chocolate delight' for dessert. Smoked salmon is selling in at least one Washington food store for nearly \$9 a pound." *New York Times*

"More than 150,000 tons of food stored in fallout shelters around the US will spoil in the next few years unless it is distributed, according to relief officials. Some has already gone bad. The food could feed about 10 million people for 60 days, according to government nutrition experts." *Washington Post*

to a billion tons of krill live near the Antarctic ice pack. This could be the source of a fish-protein concentrate mixed in flour or other foods."

**BREAKING UP FOOD MONOPOLIES** - Rep. J. J. Moakley (D-Mass) says 94% of the hike in food prices went to middlemen, as processors and wholesalers; he claims retail food prices can be pushed down "by at least 25%" by forcing "giant agribusiness corporations to compete exclusively in growing, processing, or retailing food - and to sell off their interests in the other two areas." Example: Tenneco, a conglomerate which began as Tennessee Gas Transmission Co., controls 1.8 million acres of farm land, the largest processor-marketer of fresh fruits and vegetables, a farm machinery manufacturing company, a food container corporation, and a producer of pesticides.

The giants raise prices by large advertising budgets, fancy packaging, convenience foods, and transporting food across the continent instead of buying from local farmers. In the Washington area, it is almost impossible to get home grown tomatoes at super-markets; instead they are trucked across the country from California.

The agribusiness farm is not as efficient as the family size farm. The *Washington Monthly* quotes an official of Ralston Purina Co., "The individual farmer or family corporation can meet, and many times surpass, the efficiency of the large units that operate with hired management." A Senate study found the "optimum size for a California vegetable farm was 440 acres. Yet the average size of the corporate farms that dominate vegetable production in California is 3,206 acres - eight times larger than efficiency warrants."

So, the government may have to limit the size of a farm holding to encourage the family size farm.