

WALTER SCOTT'S Personality Parade



GERALD FORD

Q. What sort of man is Gerald Ford? What are his chances of becoming President of the U.S.? Now that he's Vice President, will he pull another Agnew and denounce the press, the television, the young people, and the minorities? Will he use Pat Buchanan to write his speeches and Frank Sinatra to expand his social life?—F.R., Berkeley, Calif.

A. The adjectives most frequently used to describe Gerald Ford, 40th Vice President of the U.S., are "decent," "honest," "undistinguished," "conservative" and "mediocre." As House Republican leader he was conned into originating the possible impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, but the chances are he has learned from that sad experience and will not permit himself to be used like Agnew to divide the country. Rather he will try to unify it. Of the 39 U.S. Vice Presidents who preceded Ford, 12 went on to become President. Ford has an equal chance. He will not use Pat Buchanan as his speech writer. Or Frank Sinatra as his social secretary.