

# Indiscreet Mike Bares

## A Ford-Morton Chat

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United Press International

Since the economic summit was first proposed six weeks ago, critics have argued that the exercise could turn out to be all talk and no action.

Those fears were candidly voiced this afternoon at the conference head table in a discreet conversation between President Ford and Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton. The two men spoke in front of a microphone they thought was dead, but their words were carried over live television.

Here is what they said:

Mr. Ford—"How do you think it's going?"

Morton—"Going great, I think. I think it's an exercise you've got to go through. And I think it's good."

Mr. Ford—"Oh, you think it's good?"

Morton—"I think we've got to make sure we get it all together pretty quick and move on something because otherwise everybody will back off and start sniping at you."

Mr. Ford—"I'm going to start."

Morton—"I'm sure glad Rummy's coming on. That's great. I think that's a real great move."

Morton's final comment referred to Mr. Ford's appointment of NATO Ambassador Donald Rumsfeld to be a top White House aide, taking over many of the duties of outgoing chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr.