

Parade 10/27/74
Q. I read in the papers that Robert T. Hartmann is deputy president of the United States. I never heard of such a position. Can you explain?—Mrs. Robert Kelly, Philadelphia.

A. Robert T. Hartmann, 57, a tough, ex-newspaperman who used to head the Washington bureau of the *Los Angeles Times* and later went to work for Congressman Mel Laird, is President Ford's closest confidant and most senior aide. He not only writes many and oversees all of Ford's speeches, but he has more access to the President than anyone else. There is no such position technically as deputy president of the U.S., but as Ford's number one counselor, Hartmann figuratively is said to hold down the job.