# Ford's Old Friends Include Big Corporate Lobbyists

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By MICHAEL C. JENSEN AUG 1 9 1974

friends from the business com- the Fords.. munity includes several of sitional period.

business friends are long-time as the nation's 38th President, golfing companions. Several Mr. Markley boarded a plane



Bryce N. Harlow Procter & Gamble



William G. Whyte II. S. Steel



Rodney W. Markley Jr. Ford Motor Company

President Ford's circle of and have taken vacations with

One friend, Rodney W. Mark-Washington's most powerful ley Jr., the Ford Motor Comcorporate lobbyists, some of pany's chief Washington lob-whom are helping shape his byist, was on his way to his Administration during the tran- vacation retreat on the French Riviera when he learned that A number of Mr. Ford's Mr. Ford was to be sworn in have close ties with his family in Paris and rushed back to Washington.

## Dinner With Fords

He arrived too late for the President's swearing-in at the White House, but joined the Fords later that evening at their home in suburban Virginia for a dinner gathering of old friends.

For Mr. Markley, dining with the Fords was nothing new. 61-year-old automobile executive is one of a tight circle of corporate officials in Washington who are counted among President Ford's closest and most trusted friends.

Besides Mr. Markley, President's innermost sanctum contains two other corporate figures who are widely known in Washington circles. They are Bryce N. Harlow, Procter & Gamble's chief Washington representative, who for years has moved easily in and out of Government and has advised a succession of Presidents, and William G. Whyte, vice president of the United States Steel Corporation and its top man in Washington.

Two other important business or professional friends are from Mr. Ford's home town of Grand Rapids, Mich., and already are working at the White House. They are Philip W. Buchen, Mr. Ford's former law partner who last week was named counsel! to the President, and William Seidman, an accounting-firm executive who is assisting in the President's economic plan-

addition to business In friends, the President's inner circle includes the customary group of old political friends,

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current and former Representa tives and Senators, and staff members among others.

Mr. Whyte, Mr. Markley and the President have been frequent golfing companions at the Burning Tree Club. Their the Burning Tree Club. Their wives and children are friendly; for example, Mr. Whyte says his younger son has dated Mr. Ford's daughter and their families have vacationed to-

And Mr. Ford's accession to the Presidency has not interme riesidency has not inter-rupted their relationship. Last Monday, Mr. Harlow, Mr. Whyte and Mr. Markley joined a group of other Presidential friends for drinks and a late buffet at the Fords' house after. President Ford had delivered President Ford had delivered his address to a joint session

among his old associates, other Presidents have chosen a different mixture.

## Nixon Liked Millionaires

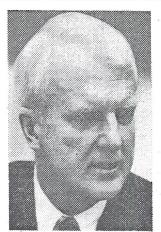
Nixon Liked Millionaires

President Richard M. Nixon, for the most part, preferred the company of self-made millionaires such as Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo and Robert H. Abplanalp, although he also was close to such executives as Elmer Bobst, honorary chairman of the Warner-Lambert Co., W. Clement Stone, the Chicago insurance millionaire, and Donald M. Kendall, chairman of Pepsico, Inc.

President Nixon Iteum Institute.

The President's friends also include Max M. Fisher, a Detroit industrialist; John M. Shaheen, a New York oilman; Leon W. Parma, a California businessman, and Earl (Red) Blaik, the 77-year-old former football coach at West Point and exofficer of the Avco Corporation. But these aren't so close as Messrs. Harlow, Whyte and Markley.

The day before Mr. Nixon resigned, for example, Mr.



Philip W. Buchen

was not close to many businessmen, although he countof Congress.

Subtle Changes

In subtle ways, of course, their acquaintanceship has been altered. Now suddenly, the man whom they have known for 20 or 25 years as "Jerry" has become "Mister President."

"I try to go the form."

nessmen, although he counted among his most intimate friends lawyers with strong business ties—men such as Abe Fortas and Clark M. Clifford. President John F. Kennedy's closest personal friends were generally his old Navy associates or school and college associates, rather than business. come "Mister President."

associates of school and conege associates of rethor and conege associates, rather than businessmen. President Dwight D. route," said Mr. Whyte of United States Steel, "but on the welcomed friendships with busyolf course, you may find. golf course, you may find me inessmen, but preferred chief executives to Washington lob-

Mr. Markley said his first dinner with Mr. Ford after the Presidential change-of-command was sprinkled with "Mr. Ford, whose Congressional career began in 1949, has therefore had a greater exposure to Washington lobby-ists than he has to other types of businessmen.

"As much as he teases me about it [use of the formal title] I'll still do it," Mr. Markley said in a telephone interview from his condominium in Beyond the first circle of the

ley said in a telephone interview from his condominium in France. "He said, 'Don't do that,' but I'm determined to use it."

While Mr. Ford's inner circle of personal business friends includes a number of lobbyists among his old associates, other

Beyond the first circle of the President's business intimates there is a wider group that is said to include such Washington lobbyists as Kimberley C. Hallamore of Lear Siegler, Inc., and John F. Mills of the Tobacco Institute, Inc..

Another friend is said to be Stark Ritchie, chief general counsel of the American Petroleum Institute.



employed by Proctor & Gamble. He was also a close personal aide of President Eisenhower's. Mr. Harlow said in a telephone interview that he was not go-ing to return to Government service in the Ford Administration.

### Markley Discusses Duties

Like some other corporate officials close to President Ford, Mr. Markley is a regis-tered lobbyist, but he said he believed that was too narrow

point out that theirs is not an individual, but a family, relationship. For example, Leon Parma, a group executive of Teledyine, Inc., in San Diego, has enjoyed Easter vacations with the Fords for seven or eight vears in Palm Springs friends across the country,

He played a major role in writ-ing the last three Republican Ford did not have "cronies," lists as some of its represent-party platforms while he was but rather "friends." atives clients large national Some of Mr. Ford's business companies such as the Brunswick Corporation, the Ford Mo-

Leiedyine, Inc., in San Diego, has enjoyed Easter vacations with the Fords for seven or eight years in Palm Springs, according to one of Mr. Parma's associates.

Other friends have known Mr. Ford through a combination of business and sports.

Mr. Blaik, now retired and

believed that was too narrow a definition of his duties. He said he represented the Ford Motor Company before regulatory agencies, in court actions, and in a variety of other Government related activities.

Whyte was host for a Presidential transition meeting at his home. Mr. Harlow and Mr. Harlow, who has known President Ford since the late nineteen-forties served as a power in the Republican party.

believed that was too narrow a definition of his duties. He said he represented the Ford Motor Company before regulation in Palm Desert, Calif., Said he had known President Ford since 1934. "We played golf about two weeks ago in Newport Beach," he said. "I didn't win," added Mr. Blaik, who was a handicap of 13. "He's pretty good."

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Mr. Ford through a combination business and sports.

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