



Associated Press

President Ford greeting, from left, Patty Berg, Byron Nelson and Sam Snead at World Golf Hall of Fame ceremonies yesterday in Pinehurst, N. C. At right, partly obscured, is Ben Hogan.

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Ford Uses Golf as Example in 'Reconciliation' Plea

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

PINEHURST, N.C., Sept. 11—President Ford renewed his appeal tonight for "understanding and reconciliation" as he dedicated the World Golf Hall of Fame here in the sandhills of North Carolina.

The President made no direct mention of the turmoil created by his unconditional pardon on Sunday of former President Richard M. Nixon, but it was obvious that the controversy was much on his mind throughout the day.

Declaring that there is one important lesson to be learned from golf, Mr. Ford told a dinner gathering of star golfers and their fans:

"I have never seen a tournament, regardless of how much money or fame or prestige or emotion was involved, that didn't end with the victor extending his hand to the vanquished.

"The pat on the back, the arm

around the shoulder, the praise for what was done right and the sympathetic nod for what wasn't are as much a part of golf as life itself. I would hope that understanding and reconciliation are not limited to the 19th hole alone."

Then, obviously alluding to the pardon controversy, the President observed: "This afternoon for a few hours, I tried to make a hole in one. Tomorrow morning, I'll be back in Washington trying to get out of one."

Earlier today as he sat in the heat of the Carolina sun facing the \$2.5-million golfing shrine overlooking the Pinehurst Country Club's championship course, the President was given reminders of his Nixon pardon troubles.

Dozens of young people scattered throughout the crowd waved placards saying "Jail Crooks Not Resisters." "Ford Has a Bad Idea," "Is Nixon Above the Law?" and "Be A Ford, Not an Edsel."

However, the President appeared far more relaxed than he had been the last few days. Changing from a wilted gray business suit into golfing clothes, he played nine holes with such golf pros as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Byron Nelson, Gene Sarzen, Patty Berg, Deane Beman, Sam Snead and Ben Hogan.

Much of the President's speech was devoted to poking fun at his own lack of golfing prowess. He has an 18 handicap.

He recalled the time when Ben Hogan, Patty Berg and Byron Nelson came up to him at the Burning Tree course in the Washington suburbs and said they were looking for another great golfer to join them.

"Well, here I am," he said. To which they replied, "Good, you can help us look."

He said he had finally decided that his principal golf problem was a wild swing.

"Back on my home course,"

he said, "they don't yell 'Fore.' They yell 'Ford.'"

Upon his arrival at the nearby Pope Air Force Base, the President was greeted by several thousand persons, most of them military personnel and their families.

He made a brief speech, protesting proposed Congressional slashes in the military budget, then approached the rope barricade to shake hands with the crowd.

He paused to talk with a group of women relatives of men missing in action in Vietnam and the wife of a returned prisoner of war.

Ford Gets 220-Yarder

PINEHURST, N.C., Sept. 11 (UPI)—President Ford stunned a golf gallery today by outdriving Arnold Palmer and Gary Player on the first hole of an exhibition match.

The President slammed the ball 220 yards straight down the fairway on the first hole.

The crowd of about 200 burst into applause and cheers.