

NYTimes FEB 5 1975  
**Ford Says '76 Economy  
Will Favor Re-election Bid**

**Tells News Conference That Progress  
Will Be Evident and Optimism Will  
Justify His Making Campaign**

By PHILIP SHABECOFF

Special to The New York Times

ATLANTA, Feb. 4—President Ford, discounting his current low standing in some public opinion polls, said today that economic conditions would be favorable enough in 1976 for him to run for a full term in office.

In answer to a question at a news conference here, Mr. Ford

Excerpts from Ford news conference, Page 16.

said that while the economy might not be "as good as we would like it" by 1976, that considerable progress would be evident by then.

"So with the optimism that I think will come from more employment, less unemployment and a better battle against inflation, I think the economic circumstances will be good enough to justify at least my seeking re-election," the President said. [Question 3, Page 16.]

Mr. Ford also held out some

hope for a more rapid than expected recovery of the economy, which is now in a prolonged and seemingly deepening slump. [Question 12.]

He said that the current trends indicate that things are not so "pessimistic." He mentioned "a tremendous inventory sellout in a relatively short period of time—more quickly than the experts have anticipated." [Question 13.]

He also praised the rebates now being offered by auto and appliance companies as "an application of good old American free enterprise." These trends, he said, could lead to a restoration of consumer confidence, which, in turn, would speed a recovery of the economy. [Question 13.]

The news conference, held in a ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel here, produced these other comments by Mr. Ford:

¶He said that he had received

Continued on Page 16, Column 4

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

a document from then Assistant Attorney General Will Wilson about Associate Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, which he issued, while a member of Congress, to call for the impeachment of Justice Douglas.

¶There are "relatively minor differences" to reconcile between this country and the Soviet Union over the general arms limitation accord reached last year in Vladivostok. Mr. Ford said he, therefore, looked forward to welcoming Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev to this country in the summer of 1975, presumably to reach final agreement. [Question 4.]

The State Department and the National Security Council are looking into the entire issue of Arab investment in the United States. President Ford will personally decide on how to resolve this issue. [Question 11.]

The President believes that Congress will fund the military aid he requested for South Vietnam and expressed confidence that with such aid the South Vietnamese "will be able to defend themselves against the aggressors from the North." He declined to say what he would do if Congress did not vote to provide such aid. [Question 1.]

**No Comment on Cuts**

The President would not comment on the plan of the House Ways and Means Committee for an \$8.4-billion cut in 1975 income taxes for low and moderate-income Americans. However, he appears to have indicated earlier today at a background meeting with editors and broadcasters from this

region, that he was not adamantly opposed to the House plan. [Question 14.]

One of the participants in the meeting quoted the President as saying, "I can go along with the Ullman amendments." Al Ullman Democrat of Oregon, is chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Ford reiterated several times during the news conference, during which White House and local reporters alternated questions, that he would not introduce any additional stimulus into the economy beyond what he had already announced—despite his forecast of continued high unemployment for a number of years.

He specifically rejected an appeal made by the United States Conference of Mayors last week for a \$15-billion program of emergency aid to states and cities to help cope with concurrent recession and inflation.

**Budget Called Expensive:**

Diagreeing with a questioner who called his economic proposals a "austerity program," he called his new budget "very expensive" and insisted it struck the right balance between helping the economy on the road to recovery while blocking a new round of inflation. (Question 6.)

He also said he would resist any effort by Congress to cut defense spending. "I will vigorously oppose any attempt to slash, without rhyme or reason, our military strength as represented in that budget I have submitted." [Question 7.]

However, he said he would oppose any new spending in order to reduce the rate of unemployment. The budget forecasts an average unemployment rate of 8.1 per cent this year and

nearly that amount next year, with the level not falling below 6 per cent until after 1980. Mr. Ford said today that he expected unemployment to go as high as 8.4 or 8.5 per cent during this year. [Question 12.]

He warned that additional spending needed to bring down unemployment would "dry up our financial markets" and would touch off a new round of inflation. He also opposed suggestions to control wages and prices while providing additional fiscal stimulus that would lower the jobless rate. (Question 16.)

**Poor and Underprivileged**

Before the news conference, Mr. Ford spoke at a convention of Opportunities Industrialization Centers, a group that seeks to train and find jobs for the poor and underprivileged.

The group is strongly sponsored by blacks and other minority groups and Mr. Ford's appearance here before it was viewed by some observers as somehow connected with his plans to run for the Presidency again.

However, he did not tell his audience what they wanted to hear. Introduced as a man deeply concerned with the problems of the poor, his remarks touched only marginally on poverty and unemployment. Instead he concentrated on describing the virtues of his energy proposals and attacking suggestions that gasoline be rationed. He warned that some people might have to pay a premium of as much as \$1.20 a gallon if rationing were imposed and they exceeded their allocation.

The audience, which had ap-

plauded him enthusiastically when he was introduced, sat in silence throughout most of his speech.

**Ford Back in Capital**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (UPI) — President Ford's plane returned to Andrews Air Force Base at 5:15 P.M.