

Ford Gives a Preview of Some of His 1976 Campaign

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MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich., July 13—President Ford, who formally announced last week that he planned to run in 1976, showed this weekend how he planned to go about it.

Mr. Ford spent three days in the Middle West, concluding with a sunny Sunday on this idyllic, 3.5-square-mile island at the junction of Lakes Huron and Michigan—an island where horse-drawn carriages do the work of cars and trucks, where John Jacob Astor once traded furs where the Grand Hotel, with its 300-yard-long veranda, stands as a reminder of America's vanishing Victorian palaces.

For the President there were many diversions: Friday's rousing National Cherry Festival parade; yesterday's golf tournament (he shot a 49 for nine holes); last night's symphonic and concert at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, where the high school musicians played Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" and the Michigan fight song for him, and an afternoon of tennis today before leaving for the flight back to Washington.

Political Aspect Evident

But this was a business trip, too, and the business was politics. Mr. Ford may not have been appealing for votes, but he was working hard to demonstrate to Michigan and Illinois voters why he merited election.

This first trip since Mr. Ford announced his candidacy demonstrated, first, that the President intended to run hard.

Not for him the controlled almost leisurely pace of Richard M. Nixon's 1968 and 1972 efforts; for all his pauses for relaxation, Mr. Ford moved at a headlong pace, as he always has.

Yesterday, for example, he began with a breakfast at 8:30 A.M. and arrived here for the night only a few minutes before midnight. Moving from event to event, he made one plane flight, two helicopter flights, three auto trips and two golf car trips.

So eager was he to shake every available hand that, stepping off the ninth green at Traverse City Golf and Country Club yesterday afternoon, he found himself greeting one of the White House secretaries and several Washington-

based photographers.

Mr. Ford indicated that his would be a stolid campaign, devoid of flash and flights of rhetorical fancy. In speech after speech, he counseled moderation, steadiness, calm. These, he said in Chicago on Friday night, "are not exciting words."

'Simple, Straight Talk'

The President's principal theme was self-reliance.

Speaking to a group of judges this morning, he decried what he called an unhealthy trend toward big education, big labor, big government. Characteristically, he omitted from the list big business, whose actions he seldom criticizes.

"Daniel Boone moved west to find some elbow room," Mr. Ford said. "Elbow room for

the individual is what our next century as a nation must be about. Freedom for a nation begins and ends with freedom for the individual citizen."

He made much the same point in his talk to the predominantly black graduating class at Chicago State University yesterday afternoon.

"Some people are outside the boat struggling in stormy waters," the President said. "We, the fortunate, are on the boat and can throw out a life-preserver. We can and will help. But those in the water must not just hang on indefinitely to their life-preservers but swim toward rescue."

If he suggested that Daniel Boone and other pioneers of independent spirit would be the heroes toward whom he would

Techniques on Trip to Middle West

point during his campaign, the President also made it clear that he had found his villains: Congress, the liberal economists and, perhaps surprisingly, his predecessor.

Congress, he said as often as he could, is trying to avoid responsibility for solving the energy crisis, and is trying to spend the nation into bankruptcy. One could almost hear Harry S. Truman talking about the "do-nothing, good-for-nothing 80th Congress."

But as Mr. Ford painted the picture it was not just the current crop of Democrats who had caused the damage. Since the beginning of the New Deal, he said, the liberals had taxed everyone to help the disadvantaged groups in society—and had succeeded mainly in pena-

lizing everyone through inflation.

His criticisms of Mr. Nixon were indirect but unmistakable, and some of his aides went so far as to comment that Mr. Nixon was one of the President's chief campaign assets. Was Mr. Nixon devious? Mr. Ford talked about candor and honesty. Was Mr. Nixon selfish in refusing support to other Republicans in 1972? Mr. Ford would campaign hand-in-hand with the party's candidates in Michigan and Illinois.

Ford-Nixon Comparison

Even if he does not intend it, Mr. Ford's personal style prompts comparison with Mr. Nixon. When he stood in line for 12 minutes at a buffet dinner last evening, a Traverse

City woman asked her husband: "Now can you imagine Nixon ever doing that?"

Finally, Mr. Ford demonstrated his taste for the small change of politics. At lunch today, he worried with Michigan Republicans about the problem of settling upon a candidate to run for the Senate seat being vacated next year by Philip A. Hart, a Democrat.

And on Friday, he outmaneuvered Chicago's Mayor, Richard J. Daley, also a Democrat. Mr. Daley had said on Thursday that he would be too busy to get the President. But on Friday morning—not coincidentally, according to White House sources—Mr. Daley was informed of a \$107-million grant from the Department came to the airport.