

# Ford Sums Up First Year In 'Different' White House

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WASHINGTON, July 24—President Ford, affirming that he and Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama share "a good many similarities" on domestic issues, is nearing the end of his first year in the White House with apparent confidence in the conservative course he has set.

In an interview marking the approach of his first anniversary as the nation's only appointed President, Mr. Ford credited his Administration with having

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restored faith in the White House here and abroad and with having "kept our cool" in the face of simultaneous recession and inflation.

He cited the fall of non-Communist Governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia, along with frustrations in the search for a Middle East peace formula, as the largest disappointments of his first year in office.

As he sat in the Oval Office beneath a copy of a 1776 portrait of George Washington, sipped coffee from a gilt-edged cup and held a briar pipe that would not stay lighted, Mr. Ford noted with evident satisfaction that "we run the White House differently" from the Nixon Administration, whose fall catapulted him to the Presidency last August.

Yet, in reply to a broad range of questions put to him for an hour yesterday by members of The New York Times

bureau staff in Washington, the President suggested that the difference was basically one of tone, not policy.

He said that he and Governor Wallace, whose conservative supporters were energetically courted by Richard M. Nixon in the 1968 and 1972 election campaigns, had similar philosophies on domestic issues.

"We do have, apparently, some significant differences on foreign policy," the President added, but he did not enumerate them and said it would be "inappropriate" at the outset of his own Presidential candidacy to "get in a brawl" with the Alabama Democrat.

The President disclosed that, because of budget constraints, he rejected a Cabinet proposal late last year that all Federal antipoverty programs be supported by "outright cash" payments to the needy.

But he pledged, as had Mr. Nixon before him, to seek "something new" to replace a welfare system that he said kept multiplying in cost, "with too much going to people who don't deserve it and too little to the people who do deserve it."

Mr. Ford defended his plan to go to Helsinki, Finland, next week to sign a 35-nation accord on European security that is the latest product of the détente with the Soviet Union begun by President Nixon.

Responding to charges by

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¶The President said that unless there was progress in the second round of strategic arms limitation discussions with Moscow, the prospect of a fall summit meeting here with Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, would be "considerably lessened." Mr. Ford, who will discuss the arms issues with Mr. Brezhnev when both are in Helsinki next week, acknowledged that there were "tougher problems in detail than I anticipated."

¶Complaining of fragmented leadership and "parochialism" in the Democratic-dominated Congress, Mr. Ford predicted eventual Congressional submission, "after a hard, tortuous struggle," to something similar to his embattled energy conservation program.

¶Declining to say if he could accept Ronald Reagan, the former California Governor, or some other conservative as substitute for Vice President Rockefeller on the 1976 Republican ticket, Mr. Ford voiced confidence that Mr. Rockefeller would fare "a great deal better" at the party convention than he had as an unsuccessful contender for the Presidential nomination in the past.

## Attitude to Rockefeller

"What he has done here in the Federal Government will be beneficial to him before a convention," the President said of Mr. Rockefeller.

The statement lent substance to reports that White House campaign strategists hoped the Vice President would benefit politically from his role as supervisor of the Domestic Council, whose conservative policy proposals next year are likely to serve, in effect, as a domestic campaign platform.

Mr. Ford seemed relaxed as he sat, legs crossed, in a brocade wing chair at one end of his spacious office. Sunlight streamed through the windows and a lawn sprinkler oscillated slowly from one side to the

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some Democratic Presidential aspirants and by Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Soviet novelist, that the agreement is a betrayal of Eastern Europe, President Ford said the security conference had been initiated only after an East-West agreement on the status of West Berlin and that the accord could be followed by mutual reductions of military forces in Europe.

Mr. Ford expressed continued confidence in Richard Helms, the United States Ambassador to Iran, despite the finding of the Rockefeller commission that Mr. Helms, as former Director of Central Intelligence, directly supervised the illegal domestic spying project, Operation CHAOS, carried out under the Nixon Administration.

## Helms Supported

"Until I see more evidence than I have seen now," Mr. Ford said, "I certainly believe that Dick Helms, under most difficult circumstances, deserves my support—particularly since he is doing, I think, a good job in his present ambassadorial post."

Asked if Secretary of State Kissinger, who was also Mr. Nixon's principal adviser on foreign policy, had participated in C.I.A. planning for a coup d'état in Chile in 1970, Mr. Ford declined direct comment. But he said that whatever covert foreign operations might have been considered would have been decided, "in the final analysis," by Mr. Nixon.

The New York Times reported today that Mr. Nixon authorized the C.I.A. to try to prevent Salvador Allende Gossens from becoming Chile's President in 1970, leading to agency involvement in two coup plots—one of which the C.I.A. stopped and another that went forward unsuccessfully despite agency efforts to halt it.

## Other Observations

On other topics touched on in the course of the Oval Office conversation, the President made the following points:

¶He said there was "no possibility" under current circumstances for the re-establishment of a United States presence in Vietnam or Cambodia.

¶In an even-handed approach to what he called the "very delicate" state of current Middle East negotiations, Mr. Ford said that if Israel and Egypt were each "more flexible" an agreement could be obtained.

other of his Rose Garden vista. "I have a little different perspective," he said with a grin, than as minority leader of the House of Representatives, when his public judgments of democratic Presidents were often barbed.

He quickly conceded, when asked, that he had mishandled the opportunity to meet with Mr. Solzhenitsyn. "There is no use denying that, and it is just one of those things," he said of the political distemper prompted by his initial rebuff of the Nobel Laureate.

## Familiar With Ghettos

The President took no evident offense even at reminders that his critics believed him too prone to accept the views of the corporate executives and lobbyists with whom he socializes and too distant from the impoverished and elderly elements of his national constituency.

He responded that he had become familiar with the ghettos earlier in the career, "so I don't have to go through the process again of seeing people on welfare or the like."

The comment was more subtle than, but still reminiscent of, former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's 1968 statement that, "when you've seen one slum, you've seen them all."

But Mr. Ford contended it was "more important" that he meet in his office with spokesmen for the disadvantaged and underprivileged so they might "tell me what they think ought to be done to meet the problems that I have personal experience with."

Reminded that he had spoken as Vice President of a need for a "bold domestic diplomacy," Mr. Ford said there was "a very narrow path" that he discovered, as President, had to be pursued to avoid reigniting inflation while combating joblessness.

"We could turn the spigot on tomorrow and spend a lot of money" to substantially reduce unemployment relatively soon, he acknowledged, but he said that "we would be right back up to 12 or 14 or higher per cent inflation, and the next dip would be infinitely more severe."