

SFChronicle  
**Another Candid Interview** AUG 21 1975

# The Fords' Big Bed

## New York

In another frank interview published yesterday, Betty Ford said if reporters had asked her how often she sleeps with the President she would have answered "as often as possible."

"They've asked me everything but how often I sleep with my husband, and if they'd asked me that I would have told them," Mrs. Ford was quoted as saying in an interview in the September issue of McCall's magazine with writer Myra MacPherson.

"When I asked her what she would have said, She shot back, 'as often as possible,' " Miss MacPherson said. The interview took place several months ago.

"One afternoon after her cancer operation last fall," Miss MacPherson said, Mrs. Ford "talked with me on the phone and giggled at how practically all the world had seen the Fords' king-size bed being moved into the White House.

"Declining to follow the White House tradition of separate bedrooms, Mrs. Ford . . . said with

amusement that she could do only so much for politics.

"That is just too far to go."

According to the article, that comment resulted in letters from around the country saying it was "immoral for us to be using the same bedroom."

"I guess if you're president, that part of your life is — I guess you're supposed to become a eunuch."

The article said "while she has not invaded the oval office, Mrs. Ford gets her views across when she and the President are alone; she calls it 'pillow talk.'"

"Asked if she pushes her point of view, Mrs. Ford laughed and said, 'if he doesn't get it in the office in the day, he gets it in the ribs at night,'" the article said.

The interview also said Mrs. Ford takes credit for the appointment of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Carla Hills.

"I got a woman into the cabinet. I never give up. Now I'm working on getting a woman on

the Supreme Court as soon as possible," she said.

Her philosophy on life, according to the article, is to be tolerant of other people's opinions and ways of life, including the practice of men and women living together without benefit of matrimony.

"Sometimes I'm not so sure that maybe this generation approaches life more wisely than we have. I know that may seem controversial, but it's an actual fact that in college more couples are living off campus together.

"If these things are going to take place, if I were the parent, I'd rather have the children come to me and feel free to tell me," she said.

Mrs. Ford discussed her mastectomy operation openly. She said she is completely recovered but that the operation "had Jerry so upset; he was so concerned for me."

"But look at it positively. Which would you rather lose — a right arm or a breast? I'd rather lose the breast" she said.

United Press