

Ford Tries To Explain Wife's Words

United Press International

President Ford said yesterday he regrets "there has been some misunderstanding" regarding his wife, Betty's, comments on premarital sex and their personal lives.

Mr. Ford is being asked often for a reaction to his wife's remarks on a CBS-TV interview that she "wouldn't be surprised" if their daughter, Susan, 18, had an affair.

Mrs. Ford also disclosed in a McCalls magazine interview that if reporters had asked her how often she slept with her husband she would have replied "as often as possible."

Mr. Ford is getting used to questions about the first lady's frank comments. So, when the question came up in an interview with three television anchormen, the President smiled a bit, then became very serious.

"Betty meant we're deeply concerned about the moral standards" in the family, Mr. said.

"We have a tradition in the family with everyone speaking their minds and speaking quite frankly," he said.

"We are a closely knit family and have great affection for one another," he said.

"Certainly I couldn't have a finer marriage, although we have had a minimum of differences," he said.

"What Betty was trying to say was that in the closeness of our family we are deeply concerned about the moral standards of how a family is raised," he added.

"Unfortunately, there has been a misunderstanding. There are high moral standards in the family, give and take. I'm proud of what Betty had to say although I regret there has been some misunderstanding."

Mrs. Ford remained at Vail, Colo., for a few days' more vacation when her husband departed for Washington

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The Harris Survey

Ford Tops Reagan For '76 GOP Bid

By Louis Harris

Although his overall job rating has slumped to a 60 to 38 per cent negative level, President Ford holds a commanding 55 to 34 per cent edge over former California Gov. Ronald Reagan in a test for next year's Republican nomination for President.

Mr. Ford makes a solid showing among rank and file Republicans nationwide, who prefer him to Regan by 60 to 32 per cent. Among independent voters, the lead drops to a narrower but still clear 50 to 35 per cent.

Reagan is not yet a declared candidate, but a formal committee in his behalf has been authorized, and his backers have declared their intention of entering him in the New Hampshire and Florida primaries.

tional Republican primary today would hold out the promise of a decisive victory for Mr. Ford.

These latest survey results show that a head-to-head na-

Between Aug. 6 and 10, the Harris Survey asked a national cross-section of 683 Republicans and Independents:

Suppose, for the Republican nomination for President in 1976, it were between Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. If you had to choose right now, would you prefer Ford or Reagan as the Republican nominee for President in 1976?

	Ford	Reagan	Not Sure
Total Republicans and Independents	55%	34%	11%
East	55	32	13
Midwest	61	28	11
South	54	32	14
West	47	46	7

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Ford Orders White House Staff Cut

United Press International

In line with his policy of reducing the federal bureaucracy, President Ford has ordered a general cutback of the White House staff, press secretary Ron Nessen said yesterday.

Nessen said Mr. Ford wants to reduce the staff from its present level of 510 to 520 employees to 485 by the end of the year. Nessen said the cutback is to be achieved "mostly by attrition" and most of the cutbacks will be among the "low rank people."

The press secretary was reacting to a Chicago Tribune report that a White House staff reduction is in full swing and that 35 employees have resigned, been transferred or been fired. White House aides said some of the employees left voluntarily.

One White House aide said the cutback is being split among the various White House offices, including those of Chief of Staff Donald Rumsfeld; Mr. Ford's political counsel, Robert Hartmann; Nessen's force; and the staff of David Hume Kennerly, the President's personal photographer.

"Nobody is going to get fired from my office," Nessen said. "They are going by attrition."

The cutback policy is being implemented by Jerry Jones, a staff assistant who formerly headed the personnel office and is a holdover from the Nixon administration.

Some of the bad news has been delivered by Richard Cheney, Rumsfeld's assistant. He told social secretary Nancy Ruwe, among others, that her services were being terminated.

Ex-Prosecutor Enters Jail

TOWSON, Aug. 25 (AP)—Samuel A. Green Jr., whose alleged sexual exploits spiced his 1974 trial, entered the Maryland penal system today, joining behind bars some of the men he prosecuted as Baltimore County state's attorney.

Dressed in a business suit, the former prosecutor turned himself in at the county sheriff's office and was placed in a wagon for the ride to the penal diagnostic center next to the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore.

Green was sentenced to three years in prison last year following conviction of justice, attempted subornation of perjury and conspiracy.

The charges were related to the alleged acceptance by his chief investigator of \$750 to

expunge the criminal record of a Catonsville garage owner arrested for gambling in 1971 but never prosecuted by the office Green headed for about eight years.

The trial, which Green maintains occurred because of a conspiracy by former aides to drive him from office, was highlighted by lurid testimony about alleged sexual activities of the ex-prosecutor, both on public time and after office hours.

Italian Train Delays

Agence France-Presse

ROME, Aug. 25—Rail unions which paralyzed rail traffic in central and southern Italy with strikes last week have called on members to delay train departures by 30 minutes from today through Aug. 31.