

# Ford: Tension Led to Ouster Of Schlesinger

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President Ford said yesterday that "a growing tension" within his administration led him to fire Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger.

After a week of insisting that he ousted Schlesinger and Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby because he wanted his "own team" in the Cabinet, Mr.

Ford acknowledged for the first time that in-house friction between Schlesinger and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had created problems for him.

"This doesn't mean that either of those individuals (Schlesinger and Colby) was not performing his job in a very effective way," Mr. Ford said.

"But for me to do the job as well as I possibly can, I need a feeling of comfort within an organization: no tension, complete cohesion . . . There was a growing tension, and I felt very strongly that I needed to have a comfortable feeling even though people might disagree."

In an hour-long special program of "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC), the President also:

—Said he would campaign affirmatively on his record against Ronald Reagan, who as governor of California "had a tough situation and did a good job." Mr. Ford challenged Reagan to enter all 30 primaries in 1976, as the President has said he will do, rather than "entering some and ducking others."

—Refused to reject his nominee for Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, or his nominee for CIA director, George Bush, as vice presidential possibilities.

Mr. Ford also said there was "some merit" to the idea that people ought to know "earlier than the last minute" who his vice presidential selection will be, "but we haven't focused in on just how that might be achieved."

—Said he saw "no possibility" that former President Nixon would ever be given either a substantive or a ceremonial role in the Ford administration.

—Expressed his willingness to submit to an outside, objective medical test and said he thought it might be "very constructive" for other presidential candidates to do the same.

—Indicated that he would veto a bill approved Friday by the House Ways and Means Committee that would extend the present income tax reduction for another year. The bill does not contain a spending ceiling, which Mr. Ford contends is as important as the tax reduction.

## PRESIDENT, From A1

The President was less definite about the course he intends to follow with two other pieces of controversial legislation.

He said that a pending energy bill "puts more and more emphasis on imported foreign oil" and not enough emphasis on energy independence but added that he is hopeful that there will be several changes in the measure.

And Mr. Ford again expressed, as he did in a Boston speech Friday, his deep disappointment at \$7 billion in defense budget reductions made by the House. The President said he hopes that the Senate will restore more of the reductions than the \$564 million recommended last week by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

He said that it would be "premature" to say whether he would veto the reduced defense budget.

Many of the questions yesterday dealt with the 1976 presidential campaign, and Mr. Ford seemed of two minds about his prospects.

## Mother Protests

MOSCOW, Nov. 9 (UPI)—The mother of an imprisoned Soviet Jew staged a second silent demonstration in central Moscow Sunday and was taken away by police five minutes later. Before her arrest, Gesya Pinson of the Latvian city of Riga stood outside the Lenin library with a sign that read: "Freedom for my son, give us visas to Israel."

On the one hand, he acknowledged that his campaign organization was not functioning smoothly, saying, "Frankly, it could be better."

But Mr. Ford insisted that the decision by the voters next November will be based on the job he has done as President on foreign policy and economic issues, and the state of the economy, which Mr. Ford predicted would be improving by next year.

The other issue, said Mr. Ford, would be his credibility.

"I honestly believe that there has been a restoration of credibility and confidence in the White House," the President said. "That's something I don't believe that any other candidate can take away from me."

In the opinion even of some of his own supporters, Mr. Ford's credibility was shaken for perhaps the first time last Monday when he blandly declined to explain any of the reasons for his Cabinet shake-up beyond saying that he wanted his own team in charge.

He started out in the same vein yesterday, saying that the answers he gave about the shake-up at his press conference were the "simple truth" and concealed "no hidden motives" or "devious actions."

But when pressed further on the issue, the President described the "growing tension" that he said led to Schlesinger's dismissal.

The President declined, however, to discuss his private meeting with Schlesinger at the White House Nov. 1 before the firing



Associated Press

**Mr. Ford and "Meet the Press" moderator Lawrence Spivak during break in telecast.**

to discuss the defense budget or his meeting with Schlesinger the next day when Mr. Ford told him he was being dismissed.

The President said he acted as he did on Nov. 2 because "leaks" of the impending shake-up had changed the timing of his action, which had been scheduled for later last week.

The President ended the hour-long program by complimenting moderator Lawrence E. Spivak, who is retiring after 30 years with "Meet the Press."

Today, Mr. Ford plans a meeting with Senate leaders, a trip to the Iwo Jima Memorial to honor the Marine Corps and a meeting with Vice President Rockefeller, who

last week withdrew from the 1976 GOP ticket in a letter to the President.

Mr. Ford said yesterday that he was "not relieved by the Vice President's withdrawal" and described Rockefeller as "a very mature person," adding: "When a man of that stature and that experience makes a decision, I have to abide by it."