

Gerald Ford characterized himself as "a conservative in fiscal policy, a moderate in domestic policy and an internationalist in foreign policy" when he testified before the Senate Rules Committee last year during his nomination hearings. Beyond those words and his assertion early this year that as a man he was "more gregarious and less shy than Mr. Nixon," and "less suspicious of people" than the president his stand on issues confronting America are reflected below, culled from speeches, interviews and testimony he has made and given in the last year. **On the relationship between a president and Congress:**

"Let me affirm my conviction as a man of Congress that the collective wisdom of our two great legislative bodies, while not infallible, will, in the end serve the people faithfully and well."

"Aren't we blessed, though, that we have institutions so embedded and so strong that our institutions can withstand the stresses and strains put upon them by a few individuals in the political parties who want, for their own gain or own power (to) undermine the credibility of a great country?"

"I believe I can be a ready conciliator and communicator between the White House and Capitol Hill . . ."

"We've had the exercise over the past several years, particularly in 1973, where there would be a polarization of viewpoints on the part of the administration and on the part of a majority of Congress, and the net result would

be no compromise and a veto, and then we had to start all over again, it just doesn't make sense. What I'm really trying to say is, to you who are sophisticated public servants, don't free

- "Inflation is world public enemy number one."

- " . . . controls should be put on a standby basis for temporary use only."

- Americans should lower their rate of "wasteful consumption, and wasteful use of resources and energy."

- "We all have our pet whipping boy when it comes to inflation, but the real culprit today, as it has been, is excessive demand. Double digit inflation is a result of double dig it increases in money supply and double digit budget deficits."

- Ground should not be lost against environmental gains but these gains "must be carefully balanced against the need to stop inflation through increased supply."

- "The country as a whole is not going to have a recession. We are going through a period of economic readjustment based on the energy crisis."

On foreign policy:

- Ford opposes a cut of American troops in Europe and has "always supported, from the outset, the NATO alliance."

- "I think Henry Kissinger is probably the most popular Secretary of State, at least in my time . . ."

- "Detente might hopefully lead to a lesser burden for everybody . . . (but) there is some skepticism indeed as to the desirability of the detente."

But I agree with those who says it is helpful rather than harmful . . ."

- "The last thing the world needs today is a global military conflict."

On civil rights:

- "I believe every American regardless of race, creed or color must be treated equally. I have lived that. If I hold a position of responsibility, I will insist that every person have equal opportunity in employment, housing, education and the like."

- "We have to concentrate on improving the economic well-being of minorities. People need jobs to make their rights meaningful. We really need to concentrate on that."

- "Forced busing (to achieve racial balance) has caused more trouble and more tensions where it has happened than almost anything else in our society."

- Ford warns that "if the federal courts persist in trying to have forced busing to achieve racial balance in the public schools and there is no other way, we could remedy that."

- "I'm actually proud of my civil rights voting record, and I'm proud of personal attitude vis-a-vis minority groups."

On party politics and the aftermath of Watergate:

- "Never again must Americans allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents like CREEP to bypass the regular Republican Party organization."

- Our great national parties evolved

Waste on . . . Grudge Fight.'

along the same basic grass roots pattern of widely shared responsibility and local self-determination."

- "America has no time to waste on a long drawn-out political grudge fight."

On the balance between the federal and local governments:

- "Nothing is more important to our system of government than restoring

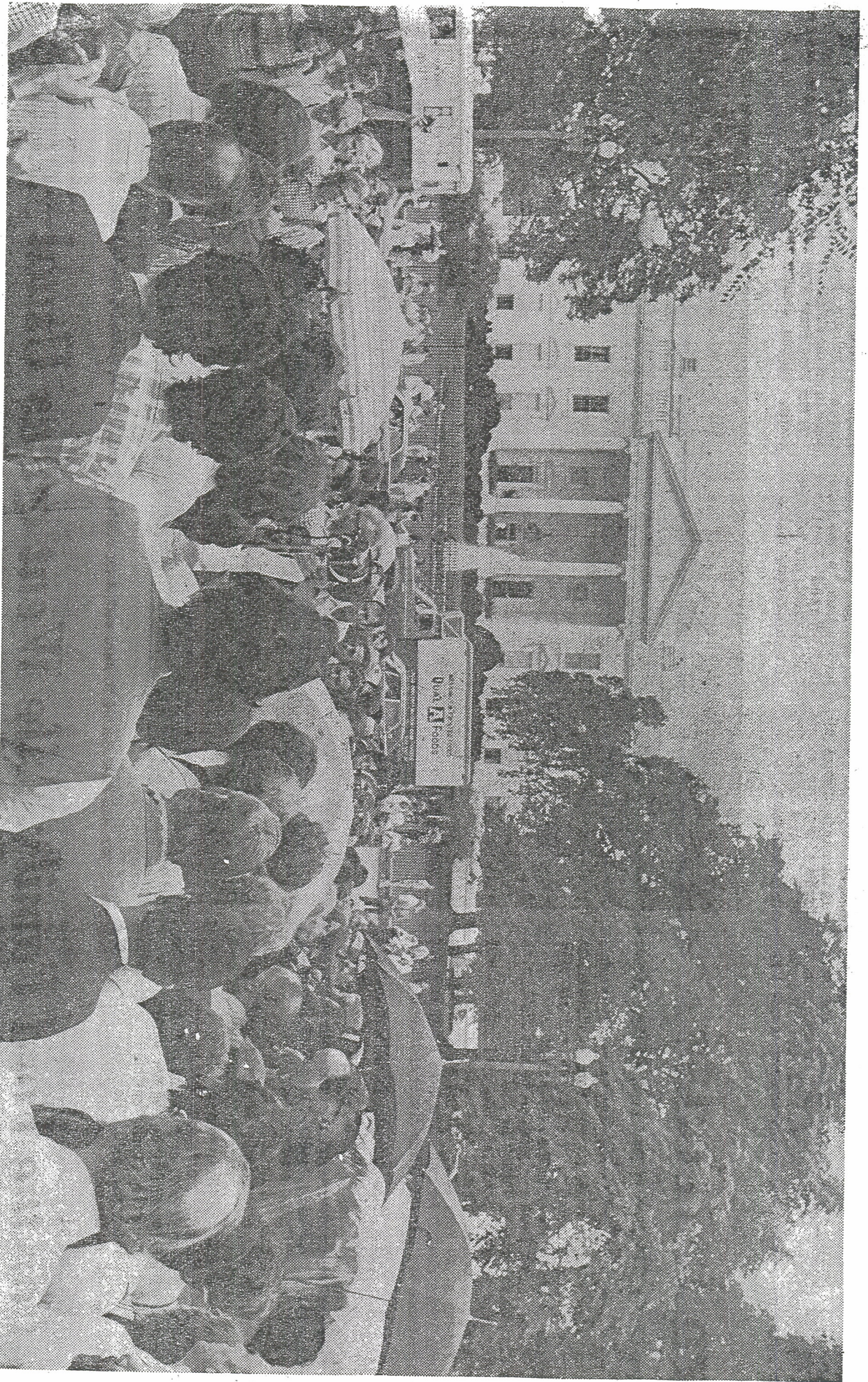
the balance that has been lost as the federal government and the federal beaurocracy have taken authority and seized responsibility away from state and local government."

Credos:

- "Truth is the glue that holds government together and compromise the oil that makes government run."

- A belief that what is needed is

"new initiative and new energies, we must go on living together. We must rebuild our economy, overcome inflation, tap new energy, provide new housing, improve health care, preserve the environment, and otherwise regenerate our lifestyles. We must renew our sense of morality from the highest level of government to the most remote corners of innercity streets."



In Lafayette Park and along the Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk fronting the White House, crowds gather and wait, braving the dampness of a light drizzle.

By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post



By Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post

A lunchtime spectator leans against White House fence.