

An Ex-Candidate Back Among Friends

By Jeannette Smyth

Reprinted from yesterday's late editions

Charles Goodell, the New York Republican who was tongue-lashed by Spiro Agnew as a "radical liberal" at the height of Goodell's losing campaign for the Senate, got hugs and political support instead from Vice President Gerald Ford Monday night.

Ford came to a party at The Palm Restaurant in honor of Goodell's new job as board chairman of a Washington-based business consulting firm, DGA International Inc. Ford and Goodell who were once colleagues in the House, were arm in arm even though Goodell was not one of the favorites of the Nixon White House in earlier days.

Ford arrived well after the party, hosted by DGA president Donald G. Agger, had begun. He and Goodell made their way through the crowd side-by-side, saying hello to guests and shaking hands. One man with a cigar whispered to Goodell, "If you'll introduce me to him, I'll promise not to call him an S.O.B."

"Ford arrived well after the party, hosted by DGA president Donald G. Agger, had begun. He and Goodell made their way through the crowd side-by-side, saying hello to guests and shaking hands."

Millionaire Stewart Mott, a liberal who backed Goodell in his abortive 1970 senate campaign against Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons.-Rep.-N.Y.), greeted Ford with, "My mother admires you very much."

"I knew your father," said Ford. "I admired him." Mott's father, Charles Stewart Mott, was famous for his General Motors millions.

Also among the guests at the restaurant (the waist-high partitions of which are topped with "Watergate Sculpture" of John Mitchell, Sam Ervin and others) were Sen. Edward M. Brooke, the first Republican to call for Mr. Nixon's resignation; Sen. Robert P. Griffin (R-

Mich.), who, with Goodell, was instrumental in getting the House Minority Leader's job for Ford; and Reps. Paul McCloskey (R-Cal.) and Lindy Boggs (D-La.).

Asked if he would support Goodell if he ran for office again, Ford said, "I'm not going to comment on whether Goodell is serious or not. Are you?" he said, turning to Goodell.

"No," said Goodell, "but I'm interested."

"I would actually be very pleased if he did," Ford concluded.

Rep. Boggs, widow of the late House Majority Leader Hale Boggs, was kissed by Ford. But Sen. Brooke got a

huge embrace, one spontaneous and another for the photographers. Later, Brooke said, "I feel that if there should be an impeachment or resignation, Jerry Ford will rise to the occasion and be able to lead the country."

Goodell, who said he'd telephoned Ford after his recent Atlantic City speech defending President Nixon ("He's always listened, it's one of his strong points", Goodell said), was asked if he thought Ford's presence was intended to soothe the wounds inflicted by former Vice President Spiro Agnew. "Jerry is loyal to all his friends," Goodell said.

Earlier, Goodell had said, "I have political ambi-

tions. I'm not thinking about running against Buckley in 1976. Something much sooner." He denied that he'd taken the job with DGA to be closer to the political action, and said he was not planning to switch parties. "I have been politically active. I've been coming to talk to congressmen and senators here for the past two years."

He has also lost 20 pounds, he said, and separated from his wife. "We're in the middle of the separation, so I hope you'll handle it sensitively because I don't know how it's going to turn out. The two real changes in my life have been that I lost 20 pounds and have this new business opportunity."

As for Spiro Agnew, who once called Goodell "the Christine Jorgenson of the Republican Party" for his shift away from a conservative stance, Goodell puffed his pipe and said, "I can get no pleasure from his resignation. It's a great human tragedy."



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Sen. Edward Brooke (R-Mass.), left, Charles Goodell and Vice President Gerald Ford at Monday night's party.