

Susan Ford Likes Mother's Interview, But Others Criticize View on 'Affair'

By The Associated Press

Betty Ford got mixed reviews inside and outside her family yesterday for her television interview in which she said she would not be unduly surprised if her 18-year-old unmarried daughter Susan disclosed that she was having an affair.

The daughter, the Fords' youngest child and only daughter, said she thought her mother had done a good job. But she said she did not have any affair to tell about.

"Not yet," she said. "I'll leave it at that."

Michael Ford, a theology student, reportedly told his mother that he was not sure he agreed with her views.

The President's position, according to a spokesman, was that he has always told his wife to "speak her mind."

There was scattered criticism from some public figures. Mary Whitehouse, a British campaigner against pornography, said in London that she was appalled. She accused Mrs. Ford of encouraging sexual promiscuity and described the comments as irresponsible.

Elder Gordon B. Hinckley of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) held a news conference in Manila and discussed Mrs. Ford's statements, made in a CBS interview broadcast Sunday night.

"We feel very strongly about this," he said. "We deplore the deterioration of morality around the world. Chastity is

to be observed before marriage and fidelity after marriage."

A spokesman for the Most Rev. Edwin Broderick, Bishop of Albany, said the Roman Catholic clergyman was "really shocked" at Mrs. Ford's statement.

"He feels very strongly that this type of philosophy should not be espoused by someone who has such a prestigious position in the country," the spokesman said.

Harriet Van Horne, the writer, in a column titled, "Candor Overdone," said that if she had been a member of Mrs. Ford's family, "I'd have been saddened by the unseemliness of it all, a First Lady forfeiting a certain privacy, some mystique that keeps the vital luster on the First Lady image."

Mrs. Ford made her comments in answer to questions from Morley Safer, the CBS' "60 Minutes" interviewer, about what she would do if her daughter Susan came to her and said, "Mother, I'm having an affair."

Would Advise Her

"Well, I wouldn't be surprised," said Mrs. Ford. "If she wanted to continue, and I would certainly counsel and advise her on the subject and I'd want to know pretty much about the young man whether it was a worthwhile encounter."

She said Susan was "pretty young to start affairs," but added, "She's a big girl." She also said she thought that pre-

marital sex in some cases might lessen the divorce rate.

A CBS spokesman said that the network had not received any reaction from viewers—negative or positive.

Miss Ford, in Kansas, where she is a photography intern at The Topeka Capital-Journal, said of the interview; "I think she did a good job. She talked about things people should talk about, like abortion. It should be brought out of the woods."

"Very Protective"

"I think my Dad agrees with that. He's very protective of me, but he's willing to listen and if I feel strongly enough about it, he agrees."

She said her mother was apprehensive about her watching the interview.

"Mother was really funny about it when I called her before they showed it," she said. "She told me, 'I may come across as a liberated woman or something.' I told her, 'Mother, I don't care. I care what your views are, and so do others.'"

Miss Ford watched the interview on a television set at the governor's mansion in Topeka.

Michael Ford, 25 years old, the oldest of the Fords' three sons and the only one who is married, was quoted by Mrs. Ford's press secretary as telling his mother he was not sure he agreed with her views on premarital sex.

"I guess I'm more old-fashioned," he reportedly said.