

NYTimes
Of Betty Ford and Morality

FORD AD

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To the Editor:

I wish to register my shock, indeed outrage, at the immoral comments of the First Lady, Betty Ford, in her CBS television interview.

I am ashamed for my country, the President, responsible parents and all who hold the Judeo-Christian ethic sacred. What kind of hypocrisy was Mrs. Ford foisting on the American public last year as she held the Bible in her husband's oath of office ceremony? She obviously flouts the basic tenets it contains.

Our society is ill and troubled for just this reason. So-called responsible people, in the age-old rage to be modern, are playing fast and loose with the sanctity of human life (abortion and drugs) and the concepts of chastity and fidelity (premarital sex).

A great many Americans are more "old-fashioned" than she is, and I for one object to her using the public platform available to the wife of the President to noise her views. If we so desire, we can get such tripe from the latest pulp novel.

Our Constitution proclaims us to be a nation under God, a people bound by His precepts. Mrs. Ford would do well to reflect quietly on the import and weight of those beliefs before holding forth in her next interview.

We are surfeited and weary of vociferous liberated women. Have we not the right to expect a more genteel, lofty moral code in the woman who, willingly or not, represents American womanhood?

Our long national nightmare is not over. A flout-morality Watergate canker still exists in high places. Mr. Ford, who "has always told his wife to speak her mind," is most ill-advised and will not get my vote in 1976.

SUSAN F. FEELEY
Tenafly, N. J., Aug. 12, 1975

To the Editor:

It is time to start a "Let's Keep Betty Ford in the White House" campaign. Surely she will do more for womankind than any woman occupant has done within my memory, and she promises more than do any women behind the Presidential hopefuls on the horizon.

Why am I a Betty Ford fan? I am certainly not a Republican, much less a conservative. Without Betty Ford "on the ticket," I would not vote for Gerald Ford, but because he recognizes her right to speak for herself, because he doesn't panic when she makes candid remarks that might among some political or religious conservatives lose votes for him, because he enjoys and appreciates the great privilege and honor of being the President of the United States, and because I have some hope that the Democratic-Liberal Congress will get together and carry out its elected mission, I'll take Gerald Ford, too, in order to keep Betty Ford.

It is a relief, at long last, to find that we have in the White House a couple who understand equality, who are not threatened by each other's independence and personhood and who are able to show to the public that they have respect for each other. I think that sets an excellent example for all of us and is also supportive of marriage as an institution.

We may not be ready for a woman President, but the time has come for a woman in the White House who supports and represents the women of the country. If Betty Ford continues to speak out as an independent, liberated woman, and if her husband continues to support her, I predict that Gerald Ford will be a shoo-in in '76, and I hope he will prove to be liberated-man enough not to mind coming in on apron strings.

MILDRED ZIMMERMANN
Voorheesville, N.Y., Aug. 13, 1975