

Ford's Wife Tells of Her Psychiatrist

Washington

The tension of having a husband away from home most of the time, coupled with the constant discomfort from a pinched nerve in her neck, finally got to Betty Ford about a year ago.

She began to see a psychiatrist here and, after several visits, the doctor asked to see her husband, Vice President-designate Gerald R. Ford. "He saw him a couple of times," Mrs. Ford said in an interview. "But it had nothing to do with Jerry. It was just his dumb

wife."

Tuesday, Ford denied an allegation that he had undergone treatment by a New York City psychotherapist, Dr. Arnold A. Hutschnecker, who first came to national attention in 1968 when it was reported he had treated Richard Nixon when Mr. Nixon was vice president.

AUTHOR

The allegation was made by Robert N. Winter-Berger, a one-time Washington lobbyist and author of "The Washington Payoff." Ford had called the statement "a categorical inaccuracy."

Mrs. Ford appeared unfamiliar with Hutschnecker's name yesterday, but said that her husband had visited her psychiatrist in Washington, and she emphasized it was only because the doctor had requested it.

"I would hate to ruin my husband's career, but he went to a psychiatrist because I went to one. With the pain from the pinched nerve in my neck, I couldn't do the things I wanted to do," Mrs. Ford said.

"The doctor who was treating me for the pain said he knew a psychiatrist I could talk to to help relieve the tension. He said he would get an appointment for me."

ALONE

Mrs. Ford said of her sessions with the psychiatrist: "It was helpful talking over the problems of being here alone quite a bit of the time and having to make decisions about the children at a crucial stage in their growing up. I had been assuming the role of both mother and father."

As a result of these discussions, she said, the doctor asked to talk with her husband.

"I didn't want to go at the same time as Jerry, so I told the psychiatrist I would have my husband get in touch with him. They worked it out. He went several times, and I think it was very helpful."

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