

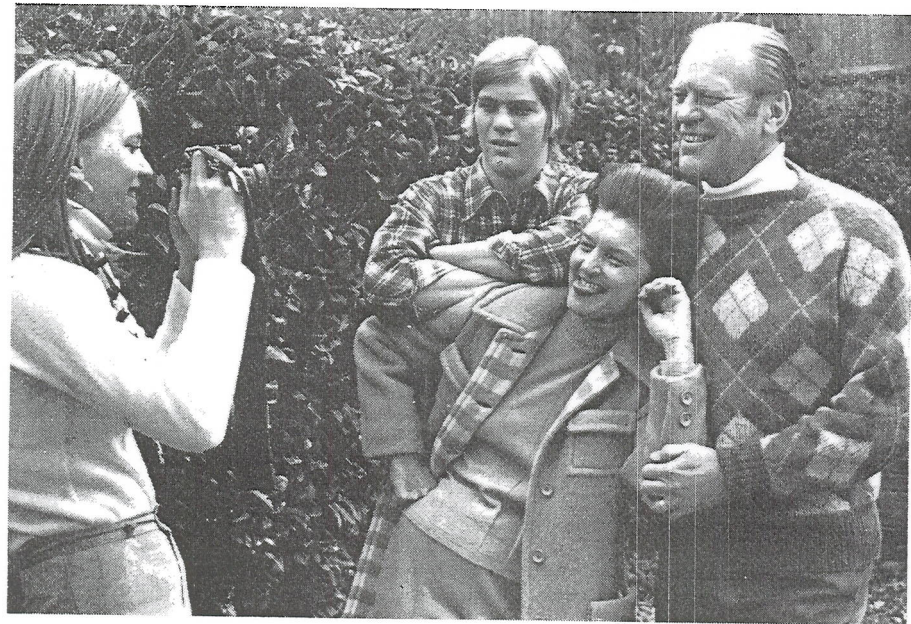
Green Light

Fully 500 FBI and Congressional investigators sifted through his political record. More than 1,700 pages of raw data on his public and private life was laid before committee leaders. The appointee himself submitted to five days of tough Congressional questioning. Last week, after what committee chairman Howard W. Cannon called "the most exhaustive investigation of a nominee ever undertaken by a Senate committee," the Senate Rules Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Vice President-designate Gerald R. Ford. The House Judiciary Committee is expected to approve Ford this week; unless some unforeseen disclosure of wrongdoing surfaces in the meantime, the pipe-smoking, 60-year-old House Minority Leader is expected to become within a fort-

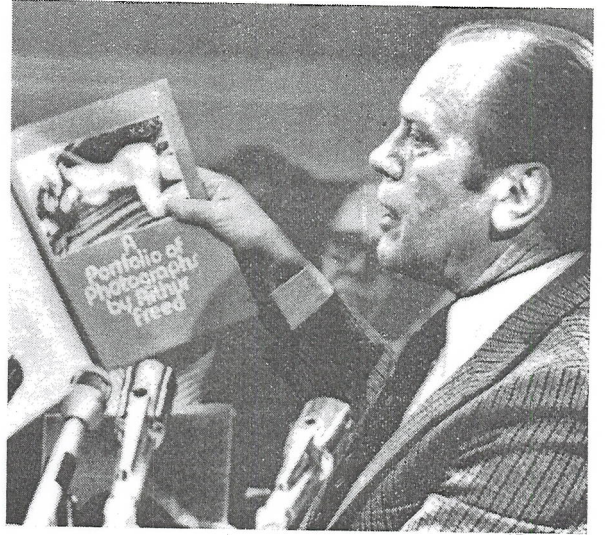
Douglas. Among other offenses, Ford declared, Douglas had written an article for *Evergreen Review*, a magazine he said contained pornographic photos—and he thereupon brandished a copy, open to some voluptuous nudes, before the TV cameras. "That's an incredibly insensitive thing to do," Rep. Jerome R. Waldie of California snapped angrily. Flustered, Ford explained: "I was trying to show the committee what kind of magazine this is." But to compound the embarrassment, sharp-eyed spectators noticed that Ford was wearing a necktie featuring a pattern of a screw inside the letter "U." "It was a gift," he said sheepishly later. "I didn't pay any attention to the design."

There were only three areas of serious concern. The committee rejected the charge of author and lobbyist Robert N. Winter-Berger that Ford once accepted a \$15,000 political favor. A sugges-

liantly if called upon to do so. And that was clearly what his questioners wanted to believe; indeed, Ford was already being likened to a predecessor who had much the same image. "His style, his rhetoric are not those of a Kennedy," conceded Massachusetts Democrat Edward P. Boland. "But he exudes the kind of confidence that I hope to see in a President. He could be the kind of President that Harry Truman became."



Mark Sennet—London Daily Express



Ford with family mugging for pictures, brandishing magazine before House committee: A new Harry Truman?

night the nation's 40th Vice President.

Ford has been his own best advocate. In his testimony to both committees, he reiterated his belief that the President was innocent in the Watergate scandal, but insisted that Mr. Nixon had to prove it. He said that he favored a stronger Congressional role in advising the President and in the formulation of foreign policy. And he characterized himself as "conservative in fiscal matters, moderate in domestic affairs and internationalist in foreign affairs"—a description that his record and his responses to questioning pretty much bore out. Clarence Mitchell, Washington's senior civil-rights lobbyist, did criticize Ford sharply on his civil-rights record. But even Mitchell gave Ford high marks for integrity. "He's the sort of man I'd be glad to go on a hunting trip with," said Mitchell. "I know I wouldn't get shot in the back."

Ford's only embarrassing moment came before the House committee when he tried to justify his 1970 crusade to impeach Supreme Court Justice William O.

tion that Ford had undergone treatment by New York psychotherapist Arnold Hutschnecker was dispelled by the testimony of Hutschnecker himself. And a report that Ford may have violated the Michigan campaign-spending law by routing an \$11,500 contribution through the GOP Congressional Campaign Committee was laid to rest when investigation by the General Accounting Office turned up nothing illegal. In the end, the only blemish on Ford's record appeared to be a possible impropriety in profiting from a magazine article and a book he co-authored after serving on the Warren Commission. "An indiscretion," one staffer put it, "but nothing more."

Dependable: Ford's ability to lead did not go unchallenged; Massachusetts Democrat Michael J. Harrington said tartly, "I think we should tell the President of the United States that we think he could do better." But the basic impression Ford left was one of solid, dependable honesty—a man who could direct the nation competently if not bril-

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