

CARTER SAYS G.O.P. WILL SELECT FORD

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He Sees Lack of Faith in Connally—Believes Trust Is the Dominant Issue

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 —

Jimmy Carter came to Washington today for a little skull-practice with his Presidential campaign staff, and talked optimistically and philosophically about the future.

In an interview with The New York Times, the Democratic Party's Presidential nominee made the following points:

¶He thought the Republicans would nominate President Ford at Kansas City, but not John B. Connally of Texas for Vice President. On the issue of public trust, he said, "Maybe the only person in the country who has a lower rating in the polls than Connally is Gov. George Wallace.

¶He thought the "religious" issue had been "substantially alleviated," but that trust in government and government leaders was still the major issue among the people, who he said were giving government "one more chance."

¶He thought it was "fair" to talk about the "Ford-Nixon Administration"—not, he said, "the dishonesty and the disgrace of Nixon, but Ford's continuation of Nixon's policies, yes."

¶He was not assuming victory in November, or anything else, but if he won, he would revive "Cabinet government," restore the fireside chats of the Roosevelt era, work for a nonpartisan foreign policy, and try to renew the people's faith in their political leaders.

Mr. Carter acts like a man who has time for everybody. He was up greeting a delegation of milk producers at his hotel before 8 o'clock this morning. He addressed the Democratic Party's National Steering Committee shortly after 9, met editors of the

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Scripps-Howard newspaper chain in mid-morning, and had lunch with the editorial board of The Washington Star.

Later he took questions from the editorial board of U.S. News and World Report, attended a fund-raiser for Tom Maloney, the Democratic senatorial candidate from Delaware, and spent the evening with the Democratic Study Group, before flying back to Georgia.

Awkward questions don't seem to bother him. In The Times interview, he was asked why he suddenly began attacking the Republicans yesterday in New Hampshire, and tying President Ford to Richard Nixon.

Well, he said, maybe it was a tactical mistake. He had prepared a careful speech on the importance of the American family, and then, he had overwhelmed it in a party rally by scalding the Republicans. But even so, he added, he thought it was right to warn the Democrats against over-confidence and attack Ford.

Mr. Ford was no Nixon, he said, but adding, "I don't see any change in Ford's attitude toward government, or his lack of leadership in transportation, public welfare, the Post Office or agriculture. Ford is such a weak leader—in my opinion, he has been just a quiescent extension of the policies of Nixon."

Answers Doubts of Jews

When Mr. Carter was asked about the controversy among Jews about his religion, he replied that he had tried to answer their doubts, and suggested that maybe in the process leaders of the Jewish community "have learned a little more about Southern Baptists."

"If there's one thesis within our church," he said, "it's the separation of church and state. Another thing: We believe in what we call 'the sainthood of the believer,' that each worshiper has a direct relationship to God, and the pastor of a church has no right to interfere in that relationship. Also, each Baptist Church is autonomous. There's no hierarchi-

cal arrangement whereby the church can send down a dictum . . ."

Mr. Carter said he thought people were curious about his religion rather than critical. "There's a lack of personal security in the country now, I think," he said, "and maybe a feeling that the few precious things that were never supposed to change have gone."

Talks of Stability

"When I came along, our families were stable. You knew where your mother and father were. There was stability that was very reassuring. Where I lived, the church and school were always there. My father went to the same school I went to, and my kids have also gone to the same school. And later, though I moved every five years or so, my nation had characteristics that made me proud."

"Then along came Vietnam and Watergate, and the C.I.A. revelations, and again there was something precious that was lost. Now people just want me to say why I believe in something. I had to face that question fairly early in the campaign. I talked it over with my wife and we decided it was wrong to conceal the way I believed. If they asked me, I'd just tell them."

Mr. Carter said he thought there was now a revival of optimism in the nation, but it should not be overestimated. "In many ways," he said, "there's an attitude — maybe it's an over-simplification — but people seem to be saying they're going to give government one more chance."

"And," he added, "if there should be any more lying, or scandal, or betrayal of trust on my part or the part of other leaders, it would be a devastating blow. Because our people have been so desperately hurt. I think they've been searching for a way to give up their own little selfish interest for the common good of the nation, and I think this was demonstrated in a little way at the Democratic Convention."

Sees Restoration of Faith

"A lot of very strong advocacy groups would come to me and say: 'This is something we really want, but we don't

want to create a disturbance' . . . I think we're seeing a restoration of faith right now, and 'I just don't want to

In planning for the campaign, which was the main purpose of this Washington visit, Mr. Carter said that he intended to stick to these philosophic themes rather than getting lost in the details of programs. He would try to be specific on policies, he added, and he would put out detailed "position papers," but he had found that he got little response to programmatic speeches, either from the platform or in the press.

When he was asked about what he would do if he won, he seemed a little embarrassed and insisted that first he had to win, but when pressed, he said he would pick his Cabinet as carefully as he picked his Vice-Presidential running mate, and would not hesitate to select a Republican for a Cabinet post if the Republican had superior qualifications.

Meanwhile, he said, he was

concentrating on the campaign and approaching it in a "mathematical way."

"We have evolved a formula with several factors in it," he said, "the number of delegates, the results of opinion polls at this point, etc. We just run every state through that formula and then decide how to allot our time—two days to Illinois, two to Massachusetts, four to New York, or whatever. After that, it's very difficult to change in a campaign. Where I can't go, Fritz (Mondale) will concentrate. The general proposition is I'd go where I'm strongest and Mondale would go where he's strongest."

Problems to Change

In the next few weeks, Mr. Carter's campaign problem would change, he said, explaining that in the primaries he could "leap-frog" a small staff from one key primary state to the next, but now he had to put together a much larger staff that could operate effec-

tively in all 50 states at the same time.

Mr. Carter said that he planned to make a major speech every week or 10 days after the Republican convention on unemployment, inflation, transportation, and also, he added, on how to make the mail and the trains run on time.

He was asked twice a week about poor mail service, he said, and when he questioned the questioners, he found that usually they were postal service employees who were ashamed of their performance. It was part of a President's responsibility, he said, to try to correct these things.

So saying, he went off to other questions on other policy matters at other newspapers, but the main purpose of his visit was not to define policy but to put together a political organization that could win in November.

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