



Summer 1986

Museum Will Host Conference on Humor

On Thursday and Friday, September 18 and 19, the Gerald R. Ford Museum will be the setting for a two day conference on *"Humor and the Presidency."* While final details remain to be worked out, the general scope of the program is defined and Gerald R. Ford Foundation Trustee Peter F. Secchia has been named conference chairman, reports Philip Buchen, chairman of the Program Committee for the Ford Foundation. The conference will kickoff with a Wednesday night welcoming reception and special exhibit opening at the Museum. Four formal sessions will be held in the auditorium of the Museum. A fund-raising dinner and gala show will be held on Thursday evening.

In his letter of invitation to the participants, former President Ford

suggested the Grand Rapids conference would provide *"some comic relief in the midst of the political campaigning of 1986."* *"Almost a humanitarian undertaking"* was the way he characterized it. According to Chairman Secchia, *"the enthusiastic response from prospective participants and media indicates that the Foundation and the Museum are once again offering a program with broad national appeal."*

Early acceptances have been received from Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former Presidential candidate Pat Paulsen, Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro, Republican National Committee Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf and humorists Rich Little, Mark Russell and Art Buchwald. Liz Carpenter, Jody

Powell and Ron Nessen will also be returning to the Ford Museum and will be joined by Ford speechwriter, Bob Orben and Nixon press secretary, Jerry Warren. Three Pulitzer winning cartoonists will participate: Paul Conrad of the *Los Angeles Times*, Paul Szep, *Boston Globe* and Pat Oliphant of the *Washington Post*.

A view of political humor from the historical perspective will open the program on Thursday. Next, editorial cartoonists, those practitioners of *"the ungentlemanly art,"* will explore the contribution of their medium to political culture. The third session will be turned over to those who have sought the highest office in the land, presumably there is humor even in

continued



Art Buchwald



Mark Russell

photo by Diane Walker

Humor continued

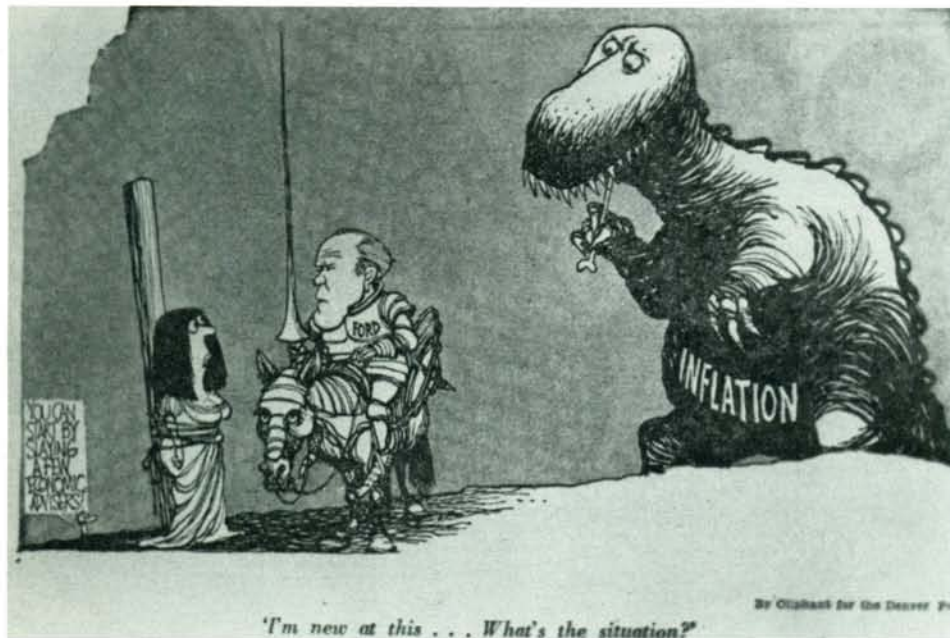
defeat, at least after a time. On Friday morning the final forum will bring together former presidential aides who will reveal lighter moments of life in the White House.

"We know interest in the conference will far exceed the numbers we can accommodate in the Museum auditorium," Pete Secchia noted recently. To insure that as many of those who are interested in attending the program as possible are able to participate in a portion of it, Secchia announced that "we will no doubt be rotating our audience."

To compliment the conference a special exhibit of political cartoons and presidential caricatures will open at the Ford Museum on Wednesday evening.



President Ford and
Tip O'Neill share a laugh.



Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, visited the Library on May 3. Shown with Bill Stewart, Library deputy director.



Policy Symposium Returns

Once again, Ann Arbor was the site for the fourth in a continuing series of presidential library conferences on the public and public policy. Three years ago, the Library hosted the inaugural conference with Presidents Ford and Carter as co-convenors.

This now annual encounter between citizen and policymaker is the creation of David Mathews of the Kettering Foundation. In the manner of the New England town meeting, citizens and experts come together to converse about pressing national issues. This year the issues judged most compelling were: United States-Soviet relations, tax reform, and welfare.

The first step, "pulse taking" in over 200 communities across the nation, was organized by the Domestic Policy Association, a conference cosponsor. The fifteen citizen discussants who came to Ann Arbor to confront the experts were selected from among 100,000 community participants.

President Ford, an active participant, offered opening remarks, saying in part, "democracy is not a spectator sport. It is essential that the serious thinking and talking about the issues not be limited to a conversation that goes on among elected officials and a small elite of policy advisors. That's why I applaud the activities of the Domestic Policy Association. You're doing what so many people seem to postpone indefinitely, and doing something that the nation sorely needs. If citizens are to arrive at a conception of the public



President Ford makes a point at the session on welfare.

interest, it is essential that there be non partisan forums in which people who may not agree with each other get together to exchange views." In conclusion, Mr. Ford congratulated the forums for consistently addressing pertinent issues, "the same ones the nation's leaders have been grappling with."

Among the experts invited by Mr. Ford to listen and respond were "U.S.-Soviet" panelists Helmut Sonnenfeldt, counselor of the State Department in the Ford administration, former Congressman John H. Buchanan, Jr., and Sergei Rogov, a specialist in North

American Affairs at the Russian embassy.

Paul McCracken, University of Michigan economist and chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors under Nixon, was on the tax reform panel with former Governor George Romney, and James McIntyre, Carter's budget director.

The welfare panel included Wilbur Cohen, architect of the Social Security system, Mayor Lawrence Crawford of Saginaw, Michigan and Stephen Heintz, Connecticut's commissioner of income maintenance.

At an evening banquet in honor of the participants, speaker Elliot Richardson, former attorney general and secretary of defense and commerce, stressed the importance of citizen participation in policymaking. "If we remain a responsible self-governing society," Richardson told 300 dinner guests, "we cannot abandon the idea of an individual's impact on issues instead of handing them over to a group of faceless bureaucrats."

This year's two day forum was sponsored by the Ford Library, the *Ann Arbor News*, a Booth newspaper, and the Domestic Policy Association. The 1987 public policy conference will be one of the first events at the new Jimmy Carter Library in Atlanta, Georgia.



Sergei Rogov, citizen participant Odahlia Rance, Helmut Sonnenfeldt



*David Matthews and George Romney
with President Ford*

Research Grants Made

Six scholars have been selected to receive grants in aid to conduct archival research at the Library this summer. Funds totalling \$14,000 are made available annually through a Gerald R. Ford Foundation sponsored program maintained with the help of a donation from the Earhart Foundation of Ann Arbor.

Applications for aid are accepted anytime, however those wishing consideration at the Fall meeting must submit their request by September 5. Please contact Don W. Wilson, Director, Gerald R. Ford Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, for the necessary forms.

After three years of service, two charter members of the Screening Committee, Dr. Leslie Fishel and Professor Paul McCracken, are stepping down. *"The timely effectiveness of the Grants program,"* Don Wilson said, *"owes a great deal to Les Fishel and Paul McCracken. By benefit of their counsel and guidance the research aid project got underway quickly and smoothly."*

Those receiving grants in aid are:

Laurence H. Chalip, University of Chicago, *"The Transformation of American Policies on Olympic Sports, 1973-1978"*

Steven Gillon, Yale University, *"The Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Vietnam War"*

David G. Lawrence, Westmont College (Cal.), *"Ford's Chief of Staff: An Exploratory Study"*



Banquet speaker Elliot Richardson

Thomas G. Paterson, University of Connecticut, *"The United States and the Cuban Revolution, 1950's to the Present"*

Joseph A. Pika, University of Delaware, *"Interest Groups and the Ford White House"*

Larry Sabato, University of Virginia, *"The Party's Just Begun: The Revival of Political Parties in America."*

Museum Notes

The annual West Michigan Citizen Bee regional finals were again held in the Auditorium, April 17. Contestants from Kent, Calhoun, Ottawa, and Muskegon counties took part. The Citizen Bee is a competition for high school students that tests their knowledge of American government and history. First place winner Trevor Wagenmaker of West Michigan Christian High and three runners up will travel to Washington for the national finals.

Attendance at this year's political film series, "Images of War," was 1,351 persons. This annual event is funded by the Gerald R. Ford Foundation.

A small collection of American Indian paintings and basket work will be on display in the Museum lobby during June.

Susan Maurer was appointed sales desk manager in October. Since that time Susan has expanded the inventory, enhanced the displays, and doubled the per person sales figure.

Acquisitions

Files of Colonel Paul Miller, 36 feet, were recently accessioned. For many years Colonel Miller has been attached to the Army's Directorate of Ceremonies and Special Events. These materials, mostly from the period 1974-1976, concern visiting heads of state ceremonies and bicentennial events.

An accretion of 137 feet of files have been received from the National Council for U.S.-China Trade. Administrative and committee documents are included as well as information on member corporations and delegations to and from the PRC.

Frank A. Ursomarso of Wilmington, Delaware, has sent the Library briefing papers, audio and videotapes and memorabilia concerning his work as a White House advance man. He helped plan both foreign and domestic trips for the President, most notably Helsinki, Rambouillet, Puerto Rico, Vladivostok, and the Republican National Convention. Mr. Ursomarso's donation includes such diverse items as his statement to the FBI on the assassination attempt on President Ford in Sacramento, California and the glasses used by Gerald Ford and Leonid Brezhnev to toast each other at the Vladivostok summit.

Another advance man, Robin Martin, has donated trip schedules, briefing



Museum employee Diane Van Allsburg was recently selected from among 30 candidates as "West Michigan Secretary of the Year."

Just Published

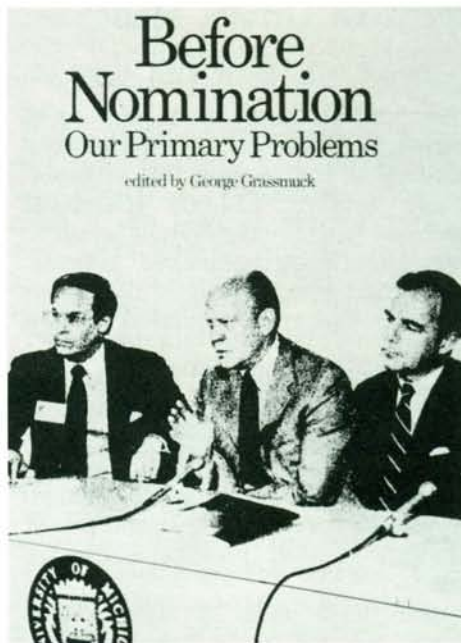
Before Nomination: Our Primary Problems

This is the printed compilation of papers and discussions at the Ford Library's Conference on Presidential Primaries, April 24-26, 1985. Edited by Ford Foundation trustee George Grassmuck, the volume includes President Ford's welcome and charge to the conferees and the nine formal presentations offered by the academic participants.

The final section contains the rapporteur's summary and the recommendations proposed by the three working groups formed by the participants. The book may be ordered through the American Enterprise Institute, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20036. The cloth copy is \$16.95, paper edition, \$5.95. There is no postage or handling charge on prepaid orders.

books, and correspondence relating to his service, 1974-1976.

Ambassador Arthur Burns has sent the Library a small installment of papers as well as 100 framed original editorial cartoons and photographs.



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The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose programs are supported entirely by public contributions and bequests. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Martin J. Allen, Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504.

"And Everywhere The Flag"

Library Installs Bicentennial Exhibit

On the eve of July 4, 1976, President Ford urged all citizens to *"break out the flag, strike up the band, light up the sky"* and celebrate the bicentenary. That Americans did so with joy and gusto is the focus of the Library's recently-installed exhibit, **"Touch Off the Fuse! Send Up the Rocket!"** Don Wilson explains that, *"in part the exhibit recalls the grand time we all enjoyed that color-splashed weekend, but there was time for reflection and the exhibit captures that too."* The display is comprised of two parts: images of a super celebration and a pictorial essay of the President's symbolic journey of remembrance to Valley Forge, Philadelphia, New York and Monticello. The exhibit was opened by Mr. Ford on March 18 and will remain in place until early next year.



American "redcoats" cross "the rude bridge at Concordtown," April 19, 1776.

Gerald R. Ford Foundation

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