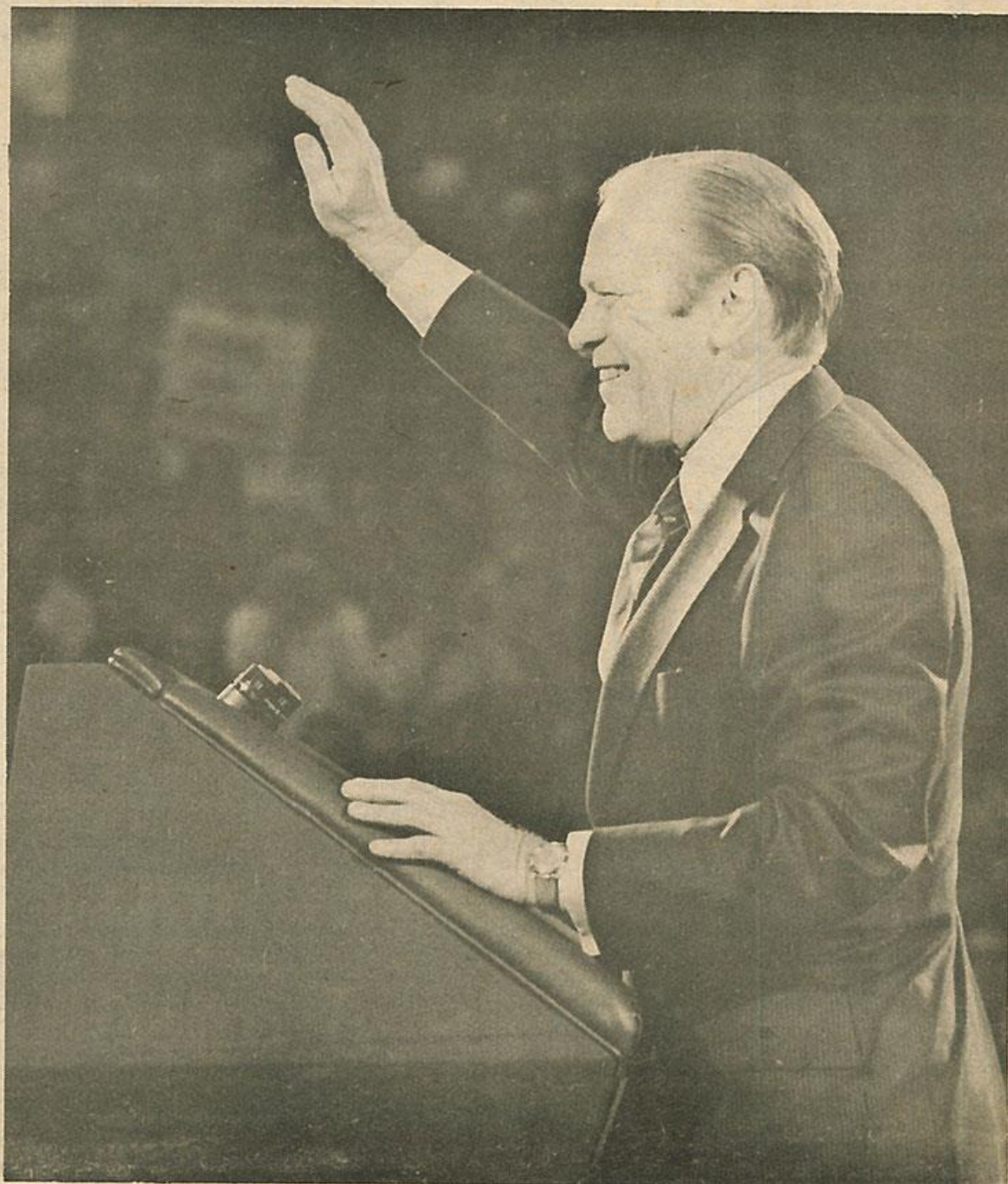


Ford Primary Campaign Hits UNH

Thursday, January 28, 2016

•
•
•



President Gerald Ford waves at field house crowd. (Ed Acker photo)

the new hampshire

Volume 66 Number 29

Tuesday, February 10, 1976

Durham, N.H.

Ford primary campaign hits UNH

Knocks abortion, prayer rulings

By Scott Fitzsimmons

President Gerald Ford denounced the Supreme Court decision against prayer in schools and called for a Constitutional amendment permitting individual state action on the abortion issue.

Speaking at a press conference Sunday in the Strafford Room of the Memorial Union Building, Ford called for voters to judge him on his record and "...compare it to the rhetoric or the words of former Governor Reagan on Federal issues."

"When the chips are down, I think the people will want a proven quality rather than one who hasn't had those hard decisions to make or those difficult actions to take," he remarked in reference to Reagan.

In support of a Constitutional amendment for abortion, Ford said, "If you believe in States rights, I think it is a very proper, very logical conclusion."

He said he supported Justice Potter Stewart's dissenting opinion on the school prayer issue saying, "I disagree with the Supreme Court decision which precludes nondenominational prayers in public schools."

The President said he will be at the Republican convention at Kansas City in August and early losses in the primaries "will have no impact on that."

"I love a good fight," he added.

Ford said he plans no programs to assist those students who may have to leave colleges because of his recent cuts

CONFERENCE, page 7

CONFERENCE

continued from page 1

in education funding.

"If we get tax reductions for the middle-income wage earner, the way I proposed, the middle-income wage earner will have more money to send his son or daughter to a college or university."

The Strafford Room was made into a typical White House press room with a blue background. Between the U.S. and Presidential flags was a portable White House lectern bearing the Pres-

idential seal.

The President disclaimed any interference on his part with the nuclear regulatory commission which has sole jurisdiction over decisions made concerning nuclear power plants.

This statement was in response to Governor Meldrin Thomson's claim that a senior White House aide had told him that a decision to go ahead with the license for the Seabrook nuclear plant would be made by September.

"I am a firm advocate of many, many more nuclear powered plants in the United States... in order to free us from the oil cartels in the Middle East," he added.

Ford said any similarities between himself and former President Nixon were "pure happenstance."

He said the major difference between the two administrations is his "new team in many of the major areas of policy determination and policy direction."

"In the field of foreign policy, there is an area of similarity," he added.

Reception called surprisingly warm

By Michael D'Antonio

Combined boos and 30 second standing ovations met President Gerald Ford at the UNH field house Sunday as he spoke and answered questions from an audience of more than 3,500 people.

While there were about 40 anti-Ford placards and many boos from the crowd, White House officials and members of the national press called Ford's reception surprisingly warm.

The President told the crowd of mostly students his new budget was designed to "create an economic climate so you can use your education in a rewarding job."

Ford said figures announced Friday show increased employment. "Ninety-six percent of the jobs lost during the recession have been recovered," he added.

Questioner Dan Smith, who identified himself as part of the People's Bicentennial Commission, quoted the Chase Manhattan Bank as saying 17 percent of the country will be unemployed in 10 years because of the multi-national corporations.

Ford said he disagreed with the New York bank's analysis, saying that the private sector creates more than two million new jobs each year. He said he was not in favor of having the government create jobs. "I want you to have permanent, satisfying jobs rather than makeshift temporary jobs provided by the government," he said.

SPEECH, page 5

SPEECH

continued from page 1

He said he did not support national health insurance. He added that he preferred establishing "catastrophic insurance for those who have extended illnesses."

The President said he is "categorically opposed to the registration of guns of those who own handguns."

In response to a question about the possible legalization of marijuana, Ford said, "I do not think we should decriminalize marijuana." His answer drew boos from the audience.

When asked his stand on nuclear power plants, Ford said the safety record of the plants "is not good enough" but that nuclear power "is the best insurance right now...for escaping complete dependence on Arab oil."

Five or six hecklers badgered Ford through his opening remarks while the President was given a standing ovation after a student apologized "for some of the people in the audience."

Roger Cole, a member of the local People's Bicentennial Commission, said yesterday that the most vocal hecklers were not from the PBC. While there were many PBC members there, said

Cole, there were also members of a communist organization and from the Simbionese Liberation Army.

Cole reported that two of the questioners who identified themselves as PBC members, Dan Smith and David Mason, were not UNH students but part of the group's national organization. "There are about 40 members of the UNH PBC," said Cole, "but only about 15 are active."

Ford said the United States should not interfere with the domestic affairs of any nation. While he offered no reason for the United States continued support of Turkey in the Cyprus situation, he added that hopefully talks scheduled for February 17 will "resolve the problems of the dividing lines and the refugees."

The President said strategic arms limitation pacts would continue to be sought with the Soviet Union. Ford said the agreement "to curb the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union is being sought on a mutually beneficial basis."

Ford's brief opening remarks began at 7 p.m. and were followed by about one hour of questions and answers.



UNH Today is produced for the UNH community and for friends of UNH.
The stories are written by the staff of [UNH Communications and Public Affairs](#).
Email us: unhtoday.editor@unh.edu.

[MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION](#) [CONTACT US](#)

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Follow us on YouTube

Follow us on Instagram

Find us on LinkIn

UNH Today RSS feeds

UNH Today • UNH Main Directory: 603-862-1234
Copyright © 2022 • TTY Users: 7-1-1 or 800-735-2964 (Relay NH)
[USNH Privacy Policies](#) • [USNH Terms of Use](#) • [ADA Acknowledgement](#)