



Spring 1985

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## Conference on Presidential Primaries

Last winter President Ford invited certain public figures, scholars, and journalists from across the nation to join him in reviewing the state of the presidential primary system. *"There is deep public concern about the process,"* Mr. Ford said at the time, in part because *"it takes too long and costs too much."*

On April 25, thirty of those experts, who accepted the President's invitation, gathered at the Ford Library to debate the topics of campaign spending, media coverage, the role of the parties, and the best means of changing the system. Formal papers led off the first four sessions followed by commentary from a

panel of five or six respondents. The fifth session, a wrap-up discussion, included a charge to the participants by Mr. Ford. While two days of lively discussion and deliberation produced some recommendations few solutions emerged. In the words of one participant, *"This group knows too much to give sharp, decisive prescriptions."* Library director Don Wilson, one of the Conference organizers, responded that *"we did not intend that this conference would solicit answers, not at this stage. The purpose of the Conference,"* Wilson said, *"was to identify and illuminate the problems and stimulate public awareness about the presidential nominating system."*

*President Ford believes the Conference achieved those goals."*

The papers and proceedings of the Conference on Presidential Primaries will be available soon in book form. George Grassmuck of The University of Michigan will edit the proceedings along with Bill Schneider of the American Enterprise Institute. President Ford will write the introduction. Information on obtaining copies will appear in the newsletter.

The Conference was sponsored by the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, The University of Michigan, and the American Enterprise Institute.



*Frank Fahrenkopf and Paul Kirk join President Ford at a morning press conference.*

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## Some Conference Recommendations

*No proposal secured the unanimous support of the participants.*

Create a system of regional primaries holding all the state primaries in a region at one time. This would shorten the primary season and reduce the strain, physical and financial, on the candidate.

Schedule primary election days on weekends in an effort to increase voter turnout.

Require candidates to enter all primaries.

Standardize the nominating system, particularly the timing of primaries. Prescribe four dates — the second Tuesday in March, April, May, and June—on which states must schedule their primary if they choose to hold one.

Require presidential candidates to name their cabinet before the election. Voters would choose a collective leadership rather than select only the president.

Raise the \$1000 limit on individual campaign contributions. Some conferees suggest doubling the limit, others argued in favor of abolishing the individual contribution cap altogether.

Retain the current system of offering tax credits for political contributions.

Permit large contributions at the outset of presidential nominating contests to allow candidates to have seed money for their campaigns.

Continue the federal income tax checkoff procedure to provide public funds for presidential campaigns.



*Top, Terry Sanford and Paul Kirk.  
Middle, Martin Wattenberg, Herbert Alexander, Xandra Kayden, Theodore Lowi.  
Bottom, Richard Cheney and President Ford.*

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## An Appeal For Election Reform

*This is the time to act. This is the first time in twenty-eight years that neither party will have a president eligible for reelection. Together, both parties can shape and seek changes on the basis of merit, on the basis of commonality of interest. And do it in a way...that we can have balance as far as changes between the parties.*

Charles Manatt, Keynote Address



Keynote speaker Charles Manatt.



Neil Staebler makes a point in the campaign financing discussion group. Listening, clockwise from left, are Al Judge, Frank Fahrenkopf, Xandra Kayden, Herbert Alexander, David Adamany, Michael Malbin (back to camera).

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## Sculpture Dedication

The Museum was the setting recently for the unveiling of a life size bust of the former president. The bronze likeness, on permanent display in the lobby, is the work of sculptor Walter Hancock and a gift of the Frederik Meijer family of Grand Rapids.

Other Hancock sculptures are on exhibit at the National Gallery of Art, National Portrait Gallery, and Washington's National Cathedral.



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## National Issues Forum Returns to Ann Arbor

What policy issues will most engage the public's attention in 1986? The National Issues Forum is betting it will be tax reform, the welfare system, and U.S. relations with Russia. At any rate, it is those topics Forum convenors will debate when they gather at the Ford Library March 20 and 21.

This annual conference, which brings private citizens and decisionmakers

together to confront urgent national problems, was conceived and organized by David Mathews of the Kettering Foundation.

The first National Issues Forum, chaired by Presidents Ford and Carter, was held at the Ford Library in February 1983. President Ford will serve as host at the fourth annual sessions.

## Conference on Presidential Primaries

### Host, Opening Remarks, and Charge to the Participants

President Gerald R. Ford

### Remarks and Introductions

Martin J. Allen, Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation  
Marvin Esch, American Enterprise Institute  
Robert P. Griffin, former U.S. Senator from Michigan  
Sarah Goddard Power, Regent, The University of Michigan  
Harold Shapiro, President, The University of Michigan

### Moderators, Discussion Leaders, and Chairpersons

David Adamany, President, Wayne State University  
Richard Cheney, U.S. Representative from Wyoming  
Philip Converse, The University of Michigan  
Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Chairman, Republican National Committee  
Robert Finch, former Secretary of HEW  
Marlin Fitzwater, Press Secretary to the Vice President  
Alexander Heard, Vanderbilt University  
Nelson Polsby, University of California, Berkeley  
Terry Sanford, President, Duke University

### Keynote Address

Charles Manatt, former Chairman, Democratic National Committee

### Participants and Presenters

Herbert Alexander, Citizens Research Foundation  
Philip Buchen, former White House Counsel  
Hamilton Jordan, former White House Chief of Staff  
Xandra Kayden, Harvard University  
Paul Kirk, Chairman, Democratic National Committee  
Theodore Lowi, Cornell University  
Michael Malbin, American Enterprise Institute  
Thomas Mann, American Political Science Association  
David Mathews, President, Kettering Foundation  
Warren Miller, Arizona State University  
Michael Nelson, Vanderbilt University  
Austin Ranney, American Enterprise Institute  
William Schneider, American Enterprise Institute  
Neil Staebler, former member, Federal Election Commission  
Robert Teeter, Market Opinion Research  
Michael Traugott, The University of Michigan  
Werner Veit, President, Booth Newspapers  
Martin Wattenberg, University of California, Irvine

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## Griffin Succeeded By Allen As Chairman

The Board of Trustees 1985 annual meeting, held April 24 at the Ford Library, marked the completion of the term of office of the Board's first chairman, Robert Griffin. Although he is stepping down as chairman, Senator Griffin will remain a member of the executive committee. President Ford,



Bob Griffin receives a golfing sweater on the occasion of his retirement as Trustees chairman, as Don Wilson (left), President Ford, and George Grassmuck applaud.

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## Scholars Receive Awards

At its spring meeting the Grants Award Committee decided in favor of funding five applicants. Recipients and their topics are:

**Stanley Kutler** (Wisconsin), "Watergate."

**Robert J. Thompson** (East Carolina University), "Presidents and Prime Ministers: Contrasting Patterns of Time Management."

**Anantha Naidu** (University of Delhi), "U.S. Policy Towards the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1967-1980."

**William Syers** (Oklahoma), "The Legislative Presidency of Gerald R. Ford."

**Christopher Lamb** (Georgetown), "Beliefs, Values and Decision-making in the Mayaguez Crisis."

To be considered for the fall awards grant applications must be received by September 20. Those who wish to apply should contact Don W. Wilson, Director, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.

The trustees of the Earhart Foundation of Ann Arbor recently voted a gift of \$12,000 to the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, specifically for the grant-in-aid program. In 1982 the Earhart trustees made a \$25,000 start-up grant to the Foundation to assist scholars.

speaking of Bob Griffin's four years as chairman, praised "his imaginative leadership during the Foundation's formative years. As chairman he was instrumental in developing the kinds of programs I envisioned for the Ford Library and Museum. The Foundation's unequivocal support for historical research and public affairs programs owes a great deal to Bob Griffin's influence and conviction."

Upon the recommendation of the nominating committee, the Board, by unanimous vote, elected Martin J. Allen, Jr. of Grand Rapids as chairman. A charter Board member, "Marty" Allen is a senior vice president of the Old Kent Bank and Trust and a past president of the Bank Marketing Association. After noting his long friendship with the new chairman, Mr. Ford characterized him as a "business leader who has compiled an enviable record of unstinting public service. Marty Allen will be an energetic chairman of the Board of Trustees," Ford said, "and a worthy successor to Bob Griffin." Other Foundation officers elected for 1985 are John G. Ford, vice chairman; George Grassmuck, secretary; and Harold Davidson, treasurer.

In separate proceedings, three new members, Robert Hooker, Thomas Kauper and Larry Lindemer, were elected to the Board of Trustees. Grand Rapids businessman Robert Hooker is president of Mazda Distributors, Great Lakes. A professor of law at The University of Michigan, Thomas Kauper was an assistant attorney general in the Ford Administration. Larry Lindemer is vice president and general counsel of Consumers Power and the current president of The University of Michigan Alumni Association.

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## Acquisitions

Pollster Robert Teeter has donated 37 linear feet of national and state survey data relating to the 1972 and 1976 election campaigns. The collection also includes post election analyses of the 1976 election.

The Grand Rapids legal firm, Law, Weathers and Richardson, has given the Library a small collection maintained by the firm and its predecessors concerning Gerald Ford. Included is correspondence about cases Mr. Ford handled in association with the firm as well as papers relating to Ford family legal affairs.



Martin J. Allen, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Gerald R. Ford Foundation.

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## Briefly Noted

The annual west Michigan Citizens Bee competition again was held at the Museum. Forty-five high school finalists from Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa counties took part. Inspired by the National Spelling Bee, the Citizens Bee tests a student's knowledge of American history and government. As in the past, President Ford submitted questions for inclusion in the program. This year's winner was Nancy Guyott of East Kentwood High School.

The actor Cliff Robertson was at the Museum on April 2 to shoot scenes in the Oval Office for inclusion in the orientation film, "President" for the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum.

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## The Quilter's Art on View

On May 24, 1985 an exhibition, "Quilts: A Bicentennial Celebration," opened in the Ford Museum's temporary exhibit gallery.

Quilting in America dates back to early colonial times. Born of necessity in cold New England, quilts were first stitched together by Pilgrim women. A popular pastime even in the 20th century, quilting was the one task that offered women artistic release from the tedium of housework. Since the 1800's quilt designs have often celebrated events in our national history: Lincoln's Platform, Rocky Road to California, Rose of Dixie, and Chicago Star.

The tradition of quilting was revived during the Bicentennial when all the American folk arts were acclaimed and nurtured and a number of quilters presented the yield of their labors to President and Mrs. Ford. From these donations Museum curator Will Jones and his staff selected 14 quilts for exhibition, some of which Jones judges, "the finest examples of the quilter's craft to commemorate the American Bicentennial." Although professional quilters made some of the pieces in the show, most were designed and sewn by scout, school, and senior citizen groups.

*Above, Senator Mike Mansfield helps Missoula, Montana high school representatives give their student-made quilt to President Ford in a 1975 Oval Office ceremony. Below, a detail of a quilt stitched by a Mormon Church group, also from Missoula.*



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## Gerald R. Ford Foundation

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