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is the mother of 5 children, 18 grandchildren, and 59 great-grandchildren, and 16 great-great-grandchildren.

For 20 years, following an automobile injury, Mrs. Rigby has been confined to a wheelchair. She does all of her housework by herself.

At the talent show, from her wheelchair, Mrs. Rigby gave a humorous reading which she addressed to "her poor sisters of misery."

Her subject was "Women's Liberation."

It was, to say the least, a spirited rendition. One of the reasons for her skill, perhaps, is that she gave her first reading at the age of 6. And so she has had 85 years to practice.

Just as Mrs. Rigby drew from a rich source of experience and far-reaching memory to entertain other generations, so did other participants in the talent show.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that their names be listed here.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIST OF TALENT SHOW WINNERS

1st Place Winner: Titus White (Saxophone Solos), Lewiston Area Regional Contest.

2nd Place Winner: Silver Valley Trio (Instrumental), Coeur d'Alene Area Regional Contest.

1st Place Winner: Dave Mitchell (Reading), Twin Falls Area Regional Contest.

2nd Place Winner: Norah Ross (Irish Jig), Pocatello Area Regional Contest.

1st Place Winner: Pearl Rigby (Reading), Idaho Falls Area Regional Contest.

2nd Place Winner (Alternate): Marvin Brown (Sax Solos), Payette Area Regional Contest.

1st Place Winner: Mt. Home Musical Misfits, Boise Area Regional Contest.

2nd Place Winner: Zora Warner (Organ Solos), Lewiston Area Regional Contest.

1st Place Winner: Cecile Chambers (Violin Solos), Pocatello Area Regional Contest.

2nd Place Winner: Dr. A. H. Simmons (Reading), Boise Area Regional Contest.

1st Place Winner: Fred Haun (Instrumental Group), Payette Area Regional Contest.

2nd Place Winner: Bulah Chisham (Vocal Solo), Twin Falls Area Regional Contest.

1st Place Winner: Alexander's Ragtime Band, Coeur d'Alene Area Regional Contest.

2nd Place Winner: Onita Hoff (Marimba Solos), Idaho Falls Area Regional Contest.

FEDERAL SPENDING

Mr. BROCK. Mr. President, Congress continues to overspend, oblivious to the consequences. Therefore, I would like to share with my colleagues an article which appeared in the New York Times by Donna A. Thompson. She paints a very vivid picture which each of my colleagues should see. I ask unanimous consent to have this article printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A "HINTERLAND" PLEA ON TAXES

(By Donna A. Thompson)

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.—For a long time I have been thinking about telling you, Mr. Congressman and Mr. Senator, what your constituents are thinking—things you never

hear. We want to know how you are going to cut taxes when you continue to make larger and larger appropriations.

You say, "We'll cut the Government pay-rolls," yet in the same breath continue: "But we'll set up another agency or consolidate the ones we have. Instead of so many little people, we will spend more money for the men at the top to take care of the supervision of these bureaus. We need competent men at high salaries."

But we wonder if you need more and more of them? If the men in charge of the agencies are not competent to handle them, why not let them go and put someone in who is? Or is it that more high-priced executives will be another means of helping organize political machines—a way of paying off with large salaries party promises to men who have helped carry elections?

Three farmers were talking about taxes, a favorite topic of conversation out our way, in a service station here the other day.

"My taxes were higher than they have ever been," one said.

Another asked, "When a depression comes, will they come down?"

"They never have," the first one answered. "But if they don't, Uncle Sam will have a lot of farms on his hands."

You talk much about reducing taxes but never do enough for us to tell the difference back here in the hinterland. We listen to political messages and talks over the radio and television, to men who are already in office and men who want to be in office, the President and men who want to be President. And your constituents grow fearful.

It is difficult to believe when men talk out of both sides of their mouths and say nothing. We are not dumb, not entirely ignorant, as many candidates seem to believe. We can recognize a lack of sincerity and honesty. We hear high-sounding phrases that don't say anything. And underlying them all is the idea of more centralization and more regimentation. We are told this isn't true, but we know better, because there is a commission of some kind regulating every part of our lives. The right to live as an individual is dwindling and dwindling.

Most Americans believe in the inalienable right to live and think as individuals, the right to make mistakes. But the right to succeed or fail is no longer "the thing" because the Government wants to help out. It is going to underwrite our right to live so that the farmer's price stays up and the consumer's price stays down and the businessman won't lose money. A man is not allowed to fail or succeed very far. He is limited from falling too low and held back from climbing too high. But we do not want that kind of protection. We want to try our wings, to climb and stumble and climb again. Don't hamper us with restrictions and regulations that tie our hands and empty our pockets so that we aren't free to use our brawn and our brains.

The small-business man cannot compete with the power of Government control and the vast funds that are appropriated. What he is actually doing is paying taxes to feed a monster that is going to devour him, paying the bill to subsidize the corporation that is his most powerful competitor and that will eventually swallow him.

Your constituents are also thinking about our involvement all over the world. You seem to be trying to manage the world as you are trying to manage us. You talk of spending billions of dollars in order to keep the underprivileged countries in operation and to raise their standard of living. Had you thought about letting them struggle to stand on their own feet and slip and slide and climb again as the men who made America did?

You on Capitol Hill talk blithely of billions of dollars; we at home only talk of dollars and dimes. We are small, but after all

we make the whole, and dollars come hard. We can't help but think of the billions of dollars that have gone down the drain in foreign aid, and try to believe that the end result is peace in the world. Yet we doubt.

I hope that you will think about what I have said, because after all I am just an average American. There are millions of us and we are thinking mighty hard.

DISAPPOINTMENT IN VICE PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT CONDUCT

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, 6 months ago the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives exercised their solemn duty under the 25th amendment and confirmed GERALD FORD to fill the vacancy created in the Office of Vice President by the resignation of Spiro Agnew. This was the first time that the 25th amendment machinery was put into operation and, surely, all must recognize that Congress exercised its responsibilities to fill the second-highest office in the land with thoroughness and appropriate care.

GERALD FORD was subjected to the most rigid scrutiny Congress could muster—in both the House and the Senate, Mr. FORD was required to meet demanding standards, not only because he was about to fill the important office of Vice President of the United States, but also because he was to be elevated to that office at a time of trouble for this country.

This country was, and continues, in the throes of the greatest political scandal in American history. High administration officials have resigned, have been indicted, have pled guilty to serious offenses, and have been convicted of others. The incumbent Vice President resigned his office after entering a "nolo contendere" plea to charges of income tax evasion, backed up by more serious charges of violation of the public trust. Serious charges about improper conduct in the high levels of the executive branch were rampant at the time of Mr. FORD's confirmation and continue unabated, fueled most recently by the release of transcripts of White House conversations. For only the second time in American history, the House of Representatives is engaged in an inquiry into whether grounds of impeachment of the President of the United States exist.

GERALD FORD was confirmed, because he met the ethical standards which Congress and the Nation must demand of a Vice President and possessed the abilities to function successfully in that office. But, more importantly, Mr. FORD was confirmed, with the concurring votes of those who could never agree with his political philosophy, because Congress perceived him as a man who might someday be President of the United States and who, it was thought, possessed the wisdom and foresight to recognize that possibility and conduct himself accordingly.

Because of the realistic possibility that GERALD FORD might become President in troubled times, it was thought that he could take the reins of Government untouched by those troubles. Because he might assume the Office of President at a time when public confidence in Government, as revealed by poll after poll,

is at alltime low levels, it was hoped that Mr. FORD might provide a symbol of strength and nonpartisanship which could recapture the confidence of the American people in their Government. Because GERALD FORD might have the duties of a difficult office cast upon him after divisive events, it was expected that he would remain a symbol of unity.

In light of the expectations with which I, and many of my colleagues, voted to confirm GERALD FORD, I witness his recent conduct with great disappointment.

Instead of attempting to remain aloof from the troubles of Richard Nixon, Mr. FORD has insisted upon making repeated public statements indicating his assessment, not only of the President's character and fitness to continue in office, but also of the nature of the evidence against the President. Despite his initial—and, I believe, correct—reaction to such statements, by which he indicated he would not comment upon, much less review, the evidence being presented to the House committee, Mr. FORD has recently insisted upon passing judgment on the evidence and its weight.

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal by Mr. Norman C. Miller notes:

Mr. Ford may have arrived at the point where his constant public exposure could actually harm the reputation he has established as a straight-talking leader—his most precious asset. For as he backs and fills in his comments on Mr. Nixon's impeachment tactics—one day urging the President to give the House more evidence, another day backing up the Chief's refusal—the Vice President risks impairing his credibility.

The article goes on to add:

A quarter-century as a member of the House did not adequately prepare Mr. Ford to lead the country, as he would probably be the first to admit. Now, as a Vice President who clearly may be called on to succeed to the presidency under traumatic circumstances, Mr. Ford has a responsibility to educate himself on an array of complex international and domestic problems. And he is blowing it, frittering away his time on trivia.

Mr. FORD has many complicated roles to play right now. He is an important member of his party; he is a popular figure; he is a possible Presidential candidate in 1976; he is a former Member of Congress with great influence among his former colleagues; he is an antidote to the sagging spirits of America. But, more important than anything else, he is a person who might ascent to the Presidency through impeachment and removal, or resignation, of the President. This is his most important role. This is his most historical role. GERALD FORD must preserve his ability to fill this critical role.

I ask unanimous consent that the article from the Wall Street Journal of June 4, 1974, by Mr. Norman C. Miller entitled "Please Take a Break, Mr. Ford" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PLEASE TAKE A BREAK, MR. FORD

(By Norman C. Miller)

WASHINGTON.—Someone ought to do Jerry Ford a favor and take his airplane away from him.

The Vice President's frantic flying around the country really isn't doing anyone much

good, least of all Mr. Ford. One day he is in Hawaii talking to Boy Scouts. Then he pops up in Texas or Colorado or Utah giving college speeches. Another night finds him in Buffalo to buck up the Republican faithful at a party fund-raiser.

So it goes week after week. What purpose is served by this incessant barnstorming? Very little.

Sure, it's nice for Boy Scouts to see a politician who has all the attributes of an Eagle Scout. Of course the Vice President is a prize catch for a college commencement. And Republicans, God knows, need bucking up, and Jerry Ford probably can do it better than anyone else.

But enough, Vice President Ford has more important things to do—like preparing himself to take over as President if it becomes necessary.

A quarter-century as a member of the House did not adequately prepare Mr. Ford to lead the country, as he would probably be the first to admit. Now, as a Vice President who clearly may be called on to succeed to the presidency under traumatic circumstances, Mr. Ford has a responsibility to educate himself on an array of complex international and domestic problems. And he is blowing it, frittering away his time on trivia.

FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS

Mr. Ford has little experience in foreign policy, and he certainly could profitably devote an indefinite period to systematic and intensive study of international affairs. Yet he gives the impression that, if he became President, he could make up for his own lack of foreign-policy knowledge simply by retaining Henry Kissinger as Secretary of State. As wise as such a decision might be, it would hardly be a panacea. Suppose something happened to Mr. Kissinger? What would an inexperienced President Ford do then?

Anyway the strength of Mr. Kissinger or any other Cabinet officer depends to a great degree on the strength of the President he serves. Notwithstanding Mr. Kissinger's likely continuation in office, it is prudent to assume that the Russians would test Mr. Ford's mettle in some way, particularly if he succeeded to the presidency after a divisive impeachment of Mr. Nixon. It is therefore prudent for Mr. Ford to prepare himself for such a possible test by studying the personalities and internal politics influencing Kremlin decisions, and certainly the Vice President could get the help of any expert in or out of government.

Or consider the problem of double-digit inflation. The Nixon administration's economic policy appears almost bankrupt, its policymakers intellectually exhausted after more than two years of disillusioning experience with wage-price controls. The Vice President surely could tap the thinking of other economists, and from extended consultations Mr. Ford just might develop better ideas. If he does not do so, the strong likelihood is that as President he would inherit a discredited policy and be in no position to change it.

Moreover, if he succeeds to the presidency, Mr. Ford would have an immediate opportunity to move the country forward on an array of fronts. The Congress, where he served so long and has many friends in both parties, would be eager to work constructively with him at least during a honeymoon period. The whole country would be rooting for Mr. Ford's success after the protracted anguish of the Nixon Watergate crisis.

Mr. Ford's long experience as the House Republican Leader would make it easier for him to seize this opportunity. For example, his chances of success would be high if he pushed a comprehensive health insurance plan or resurrected the Nixon administration's long-languishing plan to overhaul the welfare system. A political consensus already

is within reach on these issues, and as a legislator Mr. Ford learned enough about them to move with confidence.

But there are knottier issues that will yield only to creative leadership. For instance, federal urban policy is a shambles, and yet the massive problems of the cities fester and cannot be ignored forever. Long-range energy policy, despite the sloganeering about Project Independence, has yet to be formulated, and it involves extremely complex economic and environmental decisions vitally affecting everyone's future. To provide leadership on such important matters, Mr. Ford would need to know a good deal more than the superficialities he was exposed to as a legislative leader.

It would be unfair to assert that Vice President Ford's nomadic speech-making means that he isn't spending any time briefing himself on issues. Indeed, a Ford aide maintains that "he's the biggest focus for information that I've ever seen. He has contacts through the party structure, from business, labor, the academic world, you name it. Of all the people in the U.S., he probably had more input from more sources than any other individual."

But how can the Vice President find time to absorb and seriously reflect upon all this "input"? In the last five months he has traveled some 75,000 miles to about 30 states. It is impossible to follow a whirlwind schedule and have much time or energy for extended study of difficult issues.

Mr. Ford's original reasons for hitting the road were understandable and proper. He needed to establish himself as a national figure. People wanted to see him. His party was in desperate need of a respectable cheerleader and fundraiser.

IMPAIRING HIS CREDIBILITY

While the latter two considerations still exist, Mr. Ford may have arrived at the point where his constant public exposure could actually harm the reputation he has established as a straight-talking leader—his most precious asset. For as he backs and fills in his comments on Mr. Nixon's impeachment tactics—one day urging the President to give the House more evidence, another day backing up the Chief's refusal—the Vice President risks impairing his credibility.

A warning sign appeared the other day when Minnesota Sen. Walter Mondale, a Democratic presidential hopeful, charged that the Vice President was "making a fool of himself" with "confusing and contradictory statements about some of the most grave matters that have confronted this country."

Yet no one really wants to drag Mr. Ford into the Watergate wringer. Thus, even while delivering a partisan jab, Sen. Mondale declared: "I hope the Vice President will . . . stop entangling himself in Richard Nixon's troubles and preserve his ability to play a leadership role."

It would be possible for Mr. Ford to take that advice, without exhibiting any disloyalty to Mr. Nixon, simply by deemphasizing public appearances and concentrating instead on quiet policy studies. In doing so, Mr. Ford would lose nothing if Mr. Nixon survives his impeachment crisis. But careful preparation certainly would benefit Mr. Ford and the Nation if he has to assume the presidency.

TRIBUTE TO THE SENATORS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. HARRY F. BYRD, JR. Mr. President, I wish to compliment my two distinguished colleagues from the great State of North Carolina. In a recent poll, Senator ERVIN and Senator HELMS were chosen by a wide margin as the two