As Carter haunted

Ford backs abortion curbs

By LAURENCE MCQUILLAN
United Press International

With Jimmy Carter being haunted on the campaign trail by anti-abortion demonstrators, some carrying children's coffins, President Ford Wednesday said he backs the Republican platform favoring efforts to end legal abortions.

Ford, during a hastily called news conference on the South Lawn of the White House, rejected efforts by Carter to link both contenders with the same position on the issue.

Ford said he "subscribes to the Republican platform and Carter subscribes to the Democratic platform and the two documents are quite different."

The GOP platform "supports the efforts of those who seek enactment of a constitutional amendment to prohibit abortion." The Democrats adopted a plank opposed to outlawing such operations.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Carter was confronted by pro-life demonstrators who chanted and carried signs. In Philadelphia he faced a child's coffin with the words: "Abortion is murder."

Carter Wednesday stood on the tailgate of a station wagon, only a short distance from a Catholic Church in a Polish section of Pittsburgh, and said he did not favor abortion, which he labeled "a sign of unstable morality."

"I want to be sure we have good education, good family planning, good adoption programs, so if a woman does have an unwanted pregnancy she carries the baby to delivery, and if she can take care of it, let the baby be given life," Carter said.

The Democratic nominee, however, is opposed to a constitutional ban. Speaking of Ford, Carter said, "I don't think there's much difference between my position and his. He's not an abortionist and I'm not either."

"I have supported ...an amendment which would permit each state ...to make the decision on that state's abortion policy. That is the only kind of a constitutional amendment that I would support."

Ehrlichman free while appeal lingers

WASHINGTON (UPI) — John D. Ehrlichman, former No. 2 man in the White House under Richard Nixon, apparently will remain free until the Supreme Court acts on an appeal of his conviction in the Pentagon Papers case.

But his own lawyers expressed uncertainty Wednesday about Ehrlichman's position in the courts.

District Judge Gerhard Gesell Tuesday revoked Ehrlichman's bond and ordered him to surrender to federal authorities by Sept. 17 and start serving his sentence for ordering the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

A short time later, in a ruling made public Wednesday, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the effect of its own ruling last May confirming Ehrlichman's conviction.

Sources told UPI Gesell did not know of the appeals court action when he issued his bail revocation order, which remains in effect although Ehrlichman's lawyers could ask the judge to reconsider in light of the appeals court's apparent willingness to let their client remain free.

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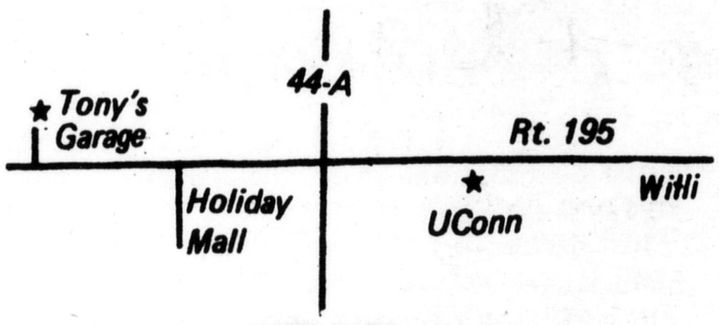

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