

## Ford Says Competition American Way

President Gerald R. Ford told an audience at North Carolina Central University Friday that "competition is the energy of progress" in a speech honoring the university's 50th anniversary as a state-supported liberal arts college, the first the nation for black people.

Ford was awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, during what was his first visit to a predominantly black college campus, NCCU's first experience with a visiting President, and only the second visit to a traditionally black campus by any President.

(President Lyndon B. Johnson spoke at Howard University in 1965.) After receiving his honorary degree, President Ford described himself as a "high-flying Eagle." The Eagle is the symbol of the Durham university. He said he would for the first time have to

divide his loyalty between his alma mater, Michigan, and North Carolina Central's Eagles when the two teams meet their traditional opponents on November 22.

The reference to the NCCU game with North Carolina A & T State University drew the loudest applause registered during the President's speech.

The A & T reference was a departure from President Ford's prepared speech. The prepared text city by name several NCCU graduates as examples of "the pursuit of excellence." Ford referred to Mayor Maynard Jackson of Atlanta, a graduate of the NCCU school of law, to N. C. Superior Court Judge Ronald Barbee, to three NCCU track greats (Lee Calhoun, a 1956 and 1960 gold medal winner in the Olympics; Charles Foster, currently the world premier hurdler; and Ronnie Ray, now the leading runner in 400-meter competition.)

The speech also referred to Dr. Leroy T. Walker, who will coach the 1976 Olympic track team, and to Dr. Helen G. Edmons, who is a former alternate delegate to the United Nations. Both are members of the NCCU faculty.



(L-R): DR. ROBINSON, GOV. HOLSHOUSE, THE PRESIDENT, CHANCELLOR WHITING

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## CLEAVER COMES HOME-ARRESTED UPON ARRIVAL

After seven years spent in Cuba, Algeria and France, former Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver returned to the United States Tuesday with the understanding that he would be arrested on arrival. He was taken into custody by the FBI for parole violation and assault charges as the plane carrying Cleaver and the FBI agents approached Kennedy International Airport.

Cleaver, now denounced by many of his former followers, was arraigned at the U. S. District Courthouse in Brooklyn, N. Y. He was flown to California

Wednesday to face the parole violation and assault charges.

"With all its faults," Cleaver wrote in a letter to the New York Times before he left Paris, "the American political system is the freest and most democratic in the world. The system needs to be improved, with democracy spread to all areas of life, particularly the economic."

"All these changes must be conducted through our established institutions and people with grievances must find political methods for obtaining redress."

David DuBois, editor of the Black Panther's weekly newspaper was quoted as saying "we don't want our Party to be associated with Eldridge Cleaver and we don't want the work of the Party to be associated with Cleaver. His return to the country is not of concern to us beyond the fact that we are interested in guaranteeing that he receives a fair trial." It has also been reported that other former Panthers are still angry with Cleaver for running out on the \$50,000 bail they had raised for him seven years ago.



MISS LITTLE

### N.C. Court

### Rejects

### Little Appeal

Joan Little's appeal of a breaking and entering conviction was rejected Wednesday by the North Carolina Court of Appeals in Raleigh, ruling that there were no errors in the trial and let stand the seven to ten year sentence.

She had been in the Beaufort County jail on that charge when the Alligood affair took place. She was acquitted of murder charges.

Jerry Paul, her attorney, said that he expected such a ruling and that he would continue the appeal into the federal courts.

## The Citation

GERALD RUDOLPH FORD, 38th President of the United States.

Mr. President, you assumed your high office at one of the most difficult moments of American history. Your candor and open manner have restored respect and stability to American government.

You have devoted more than 30 years to the service of the Nation, from your entry into the United States Navy at the darkest moments of World War II until today. After leaving the

private practice of law for two years. You were elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1948 and your support of the program, served in that most representative body until your appointment as Vice President in 1973.

Ten years ago you gave your support to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and after assuming the Presidency in 1974 you called for extension of that act to assure all Americans that their right of suffrage will not be violated.

Last year you were honored

by Dr. Leon Sullivan, founder of the Opportunities United States House of Representatives in 1948 and your support of the program, served in that most representative body until your appointment as Vice President in 1973.

For your commitment to public service, as a member of the House of Representatives, as Minority Leader of the House, as Vice President, and President, and for your personal commitment to integrity, it is my great honor and privilege to confer upon you the degree, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

## Ford Visit Seen As Political Move

By RAY JENKINS

In the wake of an abrupt housecleaning and premonitions that the North Carolina GOP presidential primary would be a very close race with Ronald Reagan, President Ford paid a visit to the campus of North Carolina Central University last Friday in a convocation to cap off the school's fiftieth anniversary as the first state-supported liberal arts college for Blacks. The visit was met with tight precautionary staking out of the predominantly Black campus.

In a short thirteen minute address, which followed the awarding of an honorary law degree, Ford cited some of the collective achievements of the university, mostly sports, and that of Blacks throughout the history of the United States. Ford said that as an optimist that he is, he believes that "competition breeds harmony and not division," a statement which appeared to have come more from the naive side of Ford rather than logic. He stated that he longed for the day "when competition, opportunity — for all Americans will be equal and fair — without race or religion or sex ever a factor."

The President stuck very much verbatim to the original text of his White House press release of his delivery. He noted that faculty members like Dr. Helen Edmons were helping students to prepare for "life's competition." There was no mention, however, of Ford's fiscal, domestic and foreign policies, all of which have been "hot" items in the news for the past several weeks.

stand on defense spending with Congress and his conflicts with Henry Kissinger on detente and the SALT talks. Donald Rumsfeld, another friend of Ford, was confirmed for that job. Henry Kissinger got his walking papers from the director of the National Security Council, and was replaced by Brent Snowcroft. Kissinger stays on as Secretary of State, however. To complete the fall cleaning, Ford rushed through the resignation of Secretary of Commerce, Rogers Morton, to be replaced by U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, Elliot Richardson, who was also a former CIA director. The President made no bones about the fact that these were his chosen few.

But that's not all. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, perhaps weary of playing the same type of second fiddle veep role that Hubert Humphrey played, unsurprisingly, stepped down from consideration as Ford's vice presidential running mate for 1976, a move which raised much speculation that Rocky would make one final crack at the top job. Many believe that Ford was too naive in the timing of his moves. Obviously he miscalculated the strong opposition in the house and among the GOP circles. It prompted some moderate Republicans to begin seeking their own candidates. In public opinion polls, Ford's significant margin over Ronald Reagan narrowed down to virtually neck and neck, including North Carolina, where the trend is basically the same.

Founder's Day convocation on November 7th. This late move, coupled with the revelation to twelve of the university's students that he might consider Black Republican Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts as his vice presidential running mate may have been designed to increase Ford's popularity amongst Black voters and thus ease his watered down popularity margin. Of the names tossed around recently, Brooke's was not among them prior to this revelation to the students. Whether the move will affect a significant margin remains to be seen. The die may have already been cast for Ford in the political arena for many doubt, as one noted columnist put it, "whether he has brains enough to be president."

Though many of NCCU's students flatly opposed the conferring of an honorary degree to the President, as well as his coming to the campus, the entire affair was virtually demonstration free, save for six white demonstrators who stood up with signs and interrupted Governor James Holshouser during his brief talk to the packed gymnasium where security was tight as it ever was with police and secret servicemen everywhere.

Outside, a group of concerned students passed out flyers concerning Ford's record in Congress and in the White

House which cited his systematic opposition to many bills designed to aid Blacks and poor people. Some law students from NCCU's Law School issued a bulletin in which they flatly opposed Ford's honorary degree, citing the fact that several years ago, a well known Black musician promised several free concerts to the university if it would give him an honorary degree in music and was refused. The Student Government Association, headed by Jonathan Davis, acknowledged that most of the students were opposed to the move, however the organization failed to take a stand on the issue. The SGA, which is the official voice of the student body, issued a bulletin last week stating that it was cognizant of the fact that most of the students were opposed to the honorary degree, however, it felt that "protocol" required that the degree be given to Ford. When asked by some reporters whether or not the Student Government Association agreed or disagreed with the citation, Davis declined to reply, directing the newsmen to the bulletin.

By far, the most outstanding highlight of the program was the singing of the dedication to Martin Luther King by the school's concert choir, which was directed and arranged by Charles Gilchrist, for, as one observer stated, "even Ford would agree to that."



FORD, WHITING, AND FRIDAY GREETINGS

## Behind The Scenes Preparations

North Carolina Central University completed preparations for President Gerald R. Ford's address at 10:30 Friday morning, November 14 in R. L. McDougald Gymnasium.

Academic robes for the 20-some members of the platform party, including President Ford, were lined up.

Arrangements for loudspeakers for the area in front of the gymnasium were made, to enable the overflow crowd to hear the address.

Platforms for photographers and accommodations for members of the news media — at least 125 of them were expected — were completed.

Lists of ticket requests by school groups and others were compiled for the distribution of tickets unclaimed by NCCU students, teachers, and non-teaching personnel.

All of these arrangements were in the hands of S. Dallas Simmons, assistant to Chancellor Albert N. Whiting. Simmons was responsible for coordination of the presidential visit since the university first learned of the plans.

He has been aided in the program coordination by Alex M. Rivera, Jr., the university's director of public relations and chairman of the university's 50th Anniversary Committee, which was responsible for program planning for the event.

Chancellor Albert N. Whiting was unable to be present for the preparations for the Presidential visit. He was attending a joint meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the International Association of University Presidents in Boston. He is the past president of the AASCU and vice president of the IAU.

The degree was awarded after a majority of the university's faculty approved its preparation in a telephone poll coordinated by Dr. Leonard H. Robinson, vice chancellor for academic affairs. The university's board of trustees was also polled by telephone for approval of the degree.

George T. Thorne, vice chancellor for financial affairs, coordinated the activities of the university's business offices and service operations for the visit. Requisitions for a multitude of small purchases were cleared quickly through Thorne's office.

Mrs. Thelma Smith and Mrs. Emma Marable of the chancellor's office coordinated distribution of tickets to the event. Dr. James F. Blue, vice chancellor for student affairs, and his staff coordinated ticket security for the visit were planned by Philip Marable, assisted with planning for NCCU's Chief of Security.

Construction of the stage and platforms for the press were coordinated by William McDonald, director of the physical plant; Jamin Peddy, supervisor of buildings; and Hardy White, supervisor of housekeeping.

Some of the heaviest load of the event fell to secretaries in Mr. Simmons's office and Mr. Rivera's office, where Mrs. Jessie Parker and Mrs. Elizabeth Davis found themselves juggling telephones and written



NCCU STUDENTS WITH THE PRESIDENT

## Prepared Text Of The President's Remarks

UNABRIDGED

"It is a great pleasure and a distinct honor for me to be with you as you observe the fiftieth anniversary year of the founding of North Carolina Central University as a state-supported liberal arts institution. Your about: to achieve, to reach a university thus became the first worthy goal. And blacks — in state-supported liberal arts increasing number — have school for blacks in the nation, attained many worthy goals in 'Since then, graduate of American society. North Carolina Central have made a mark in almost every humanity is one of progress. It walk of American life. I am sure that those of you who are now today we have gained students will ultimately do the unparalleled mastery over the same. The pursuit of excellence material world. At the same — whether in the classroom, on time, the nations and societies of the football field or in politics — the world are becoming more is no stranger to your alumni and more inter-dependent. Let and students."

"Names like Maynard Jackson, Mayor of Atlanta, Ronald Barbee, first black to Republican Superior Court Judge in the state. . . Aaron Spaulding, a member of my staff at the White House. . . high hurdler Lee Calhoun, two-time Olympic gold medal winner, who is presently head track coach at Yale University. . . Charles Foster, World Premier hurdler. . . Ronnie Ray, who won two gold medals at the 1975 Pan American games in Mexico City and who currently holds the 400-meter world record. . . and certainly not last in any competition, your very popular track coach, Dr. Leroy T. Walker, who will coach our 1976 Olympic track and field team."

"At this time, our nation is also celebrating an anniversary — the American Bicentennial. As we reflect on these 200 years, it is difficult to imagine almost any American endeavor without a knowledge of the great contributions of blacks to our society. Music, art, science, medicine, sports — N.C.C.U. Alumni are all there."

"Despite the burdens, despite the added difficulties, blacks have entered all types of American competition and come out national champions — indeed, national heroes."

combined into one for the event.) The numbers included Gilchrist's own arrangement of the "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." Many of the details of security for the visit were planned by Philip Marable, assisted with planning for NCCU's Chief of Security.

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There is a lesson for all of us in the history of American blacks and that lesson is this: to develop to our maximum the desire to compete, to achieve, to reach a university thus became the first worthy goal. And blacks — in state-supported liberal arts increasing number — have school for blacks in the nation, attained many worthy goals in 'Since then, graduate of American society. North Carolina Central have made a mark in almost every humanity is one of progress. It walk of American life. I am sure that those of you who are now today we have gained students will ultimately do the unparalleled mastery over the same. The pursuit of excellence material world. At the same — whether in the classroom, on time, the nations and societies of the football field or in politics — the world are becoming more is no stranger to your alumni and more inter-dependent. Let me offer another world for inter-dependence — neighborhood. "We are living at a time when many of the currents of history are coming together. The world is recognizing slowly but surely the high necessity to harmonize our civilization."

"I am an optimist. I believe we may yet attain man's greatest goals and noblest aspirations. You may live to see the day when we are not merely masters of the material world but all living together, what we want, in harmony with it."

"Competition is the energy of progress. It is a force which propels the human machine to new heights and greater distances. And it brings us together on the same field—whether it's in the stadium or the classrooms of N.C.C.U. or in business or in our daily life. I believe that competition breeds harmony, not division. It's the lack of competition which breeds division because people then feel they do not have a chance—that society or the world is denying them opportunity."

"Inequality, injustice, lack of competition are gradually being

removed from the American scene. I support the Equal Rights Amendment just as I supported a new and broader extension of the voting Rights Act. But I say emphatically more remains to be done. I hope and work for the day when competition—opportunity—for all Americans will be equal and fair—without race or religion or sex ever a factor."

"I hope and work for the day when the human mind and the spirit are no longer shackled by ignorance and prejudice, when all the children of God are brothers and sisters. You have the opportunity here at N.C.C.U. to break more shackles and join in America's competitive life through a good education. Seize the opportunity and use that wonderful opportunity. It may never pass your way again. I know that your own Dr. Helen Edmons, who I'm delighted to see her today, distinguished professor of history and a former alternate delegate to the United Nations, and other faculty members are helping you to prepare for life's competition. Dr. Edmons met with me shortly after I assumed the Presidency and eloquently told me some of the concerns and aspirations of blacks and of women."

"As President of all the people, these concerns are my concerns. These aspirations are my aspirations. I will do all that I can to help you and millions like you achieve them."

"But my real message today aims at the even greater and nobler goal for which we strive: the greening of America, our coming together to face a common destiny as one people and one Nation."

"This goal is truly worthy of all Americans."

the department of business administration, was given the task of rounding up student users for the event.

Others volunteered to assist. The Naval ROTC contingent on campus offered their services, as did the Air Force ROTC. It was Commander Clifford Gibson of the NROTC who located the music to "Ruffles and Flourishes," the band number which introduces the President's appearances.

Dallas Simmons said, "Cooperation on the campus was magnificent. So many things had to be done in so short a time that we may not have made note of the contribution by an individual staff member. 'The thank you is heartfelt and collective.'"