

## Ford Parries Question on First Use of Atomic Arms

By Alan Cronley  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—The question came suddenly at his news conference. Would President Ford use nuclear weapons first in any confrontation with a hostile country?

President Ford, seated in front of him on the White House lawn, was a large number of reporters and visiting editors. The President of the United States was being asked, on national TV, is effective

in the world what U.S. policy would be in case of an emergency.

He replied that the United States has "maximum flexibility," which will be used "in our national interest."

Pressed by the same reporter, Ford was told he had not answered the question. Should he use nuclear weapons first? He said it was not appropriate for him to discuss use of nuclear weapons in a press conference.

Standing under a tree to one side were

his top advisers, including Robert T. Hartmann, his political expert, and Donald Rumsfeld, his chief of staff who is widely seen as more influential in the White House.

They should be asked to answer the President's answers.

The nuclear weapons question was not just asked.

Later in the conference, which lasted about 30 minutes, another reporter put it like this: He wanted to ask "point blank"

whether the President would use nuclear weapons first if the North Koreans should attack South Korea.

Again, Ford replied that it was not something a President talks about in a press conference.

Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger said Friday that the United States "cannot foreclose any option" for retaliation if North Korea should launch an attack on South Korea.

America's policy on this issue is almost

certain to be brought up again and again by reporters in future news conferences. Some members of the press which covers the President's day-to-day will not accept his refusal to talk about it.

It appeared to be a new controversy in the making, and it soon overshadowed the subject that had prompted reports for the 20th anniversary of the President's last news conference — the Cuban Missile Crisis.



Kurt Krukowski rests in Oklahoma City hospital. (Staff Photo by Joe Miller)

## 'GOD'S ARMS AROUND HIM' Teen Survives 8-Story Fall

By Mike Hammer  
Staff Writer

After a heavy exposure to the Communist-controlled East, Mike Hammer and his family were living in a "house" in the United States and a new overseas assignment.

On June 24, they were forced to leave the country on the eighth day of a "house" in the United States and a new overseas assignment.

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## Ford Says Tax Break Extension 'Possible'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford said today that extending the tax break for homeowners would be "possible."

He made the statement in a news conference after a day of talks with members of Congress.

He said he was working to make the most of the tax break, which expires on July 1, 1975.

He said the first day of a three-day period in which the gas would be used to pay for the tax break.

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### Big Car Theft Ring Smashed, Police Report

State Agency Break-In Linked To Arrests of 4

By Tom McCarthy  
Staff Writer

MUSKOGEE—A car theft ring which reportedly was responsible for the Oklahoma City break-in at the State Agency was smashed by police.

The suspects were identified as Jerry Calvin Johnson, 40; Ronnie Bennett, 30; and James J. Whitfield, 25.

Johnson and Bennett were arrested in Tulsa, Okla., and Whitfield was arrested in Muskogee.

### Prison Death Trial Opens

By Roy Coffer  
Staff Writer

MUSKOGEE—A veteran state penitentiary guard testified Wednesday he felt there was no justification in the killing of a prisoner in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary.

The guard, who was on duty at the time of the killing, testified that he was not involved in the killing.

### Move Depends On Economy's Status in '76

President Says He's Optimistic About Recovery

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford said today that the country's economic recovery would be a key factor in his decision to move the White House.

He said he was optimistic about the country's economic recovery.

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## Smiling Mrs. Dorothy Pike Appears Before Grand Jury

By Mike Hammer  
Staff Writer

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## Indira Gandhi Foes Arrested

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government today declared a national state of emergency, saying it was necessary to deal with the threat of a coup.

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## Veto Triumph Ford's Sixth

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic House today vetoed President Ford's sixth veto.

The veto was over a bill to increase the federal deficit.

## Inside Headlines

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GRAND CHAIRMAN since ousted by U.S. Youth said he had no role in the 1968 election. —Page 17  
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May Average Daily  
Total Circulation  
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278,598

## Union Threatens to Picket Zoo Workers Fear Loss of Benefits

By Cecil Prosser  
Staff Writer

Picketing by the Oklahoma City Zoo workers could result in the loss of benefits, the union threatened today.

The union said it was threatening to picket the zoo workers.

## House Decides to Stay

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House today decided to stay in session.

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