

# Albert a Bit Short on Nostalgia

United Press International

The occasion was a sentimental farewell ball for congressional friends of President Ford.

It was an emotional event for the President and his wife Betty and for many members of Congress of both parties who came to the White House — 800 strong — to pay homage to the Fords last night.

Speaker Carl Albert, one of the honored guests, was asked by reporters — expecting an appropriately sentimental answer — how historians will view the Ford presidency.

"I can hardly project that far," said the Oklahoman, who is retiring from Congress this year. "He certainly won't be projected as a second Roosevelt or Lincoln or Truman."

The reporters were taken aback somewhat, but Albert continued.

"He made unnecessary vetoes, unnecessary confrontations with Congress, and I think that helped defeat him."

Didn't Albert, who often engaged Ford in debate through their years in the House, feel any nostalgia on this occasion?

"Well, I haven't felt it yet," Albert replied. "I really made up my mind to quit and burn the bridges behind me."

Later, when the President had quieted the audience and orchestra to say a few words, Albert was missing.

"Mr. Speaker!" the President shouted. He got no response.

"He doesn't recognize me any more than he did when I was on the floor of the House," Ford said to a roar of laughter from his guests.

Albert reappeared moments later.

## Christ Born in October, British Professor Figures

LONDON (AP) — Christ was born around October in the year 7 B.C. and the planets Jupiter and Saturn combined to create the Star of Bethlehem which marked the birth, a British physicist theorizes in the latest edition of Nature, a scientific journal.

David W. Hughes of the department of physics at the University of Sheffield, who has been studying the astronomical origins of the bright star which is said to have led the three Wise Men to the newborn babe, suggests that in 7 B.C., Jupiter and Saturn came into conjunction in the constellation of Pisces three separate times in six months.

Such an event, which occurs every 120 years and is known as a triple or great conjunction, could have been predicted by the Magi, believed to have been skilled astrologers, Hughes says.

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