



Chronicle photo

Anderson arrives

Jack Anderson, (center), syndicated columnist and leader of a 10-man team of investigative reporters, is greeted on arrival at Muskegon's Ramada Inn Tuesday by James Lilligan, chairman of the West Michigan Lec-

ture Series. Also on hand were Marge Champine (left) of radio station WQWQ, which hosted a news conference with Anderson before his lecture at Orchard View High, and lecture series coordinator Char Bennett.

Anderson likes Ford the man, but is leaning toward Carter

By ROBERT BURNS
Chronicle staff writer

"I like Jerry Ford. He's a decent, honest man," said investigative reporter and columnist Jack Anderson here Tuesday, "but I'm probably going to vote for Jimmy Carter."

Anderson, speaking with reporters before delivering a speech at Orchard View High School for the West Michigan Lecture Series, said he was surprised at allegations that Ford had accepted illegal campaign funds.

"We uncovered the person who made the allegation, and I sent three of my reporters out on it. We talked to some of the people who knew him and found that he is a congenital liar," Anderson said.

Still, "I'll probably go with Carter. I like his policies better and I like the people around him."

A year ago in a lecture at Grand Valley State Colleges, Anderson said Sen. Frank Church was the man to watch.

Speaking on the Daniel Schorr affair, Anderson said the former CBS newsman should not have taken his information about CIA hearings to the Village Voice.

"I wouldn't want one of my own reporters turning the information over to someone else. That would be unethical and improper. But since he did, he did what we all would have to do, and we all owe him a debt."

The fact that the so-called Pike Report was a classified document was unimportant. "Secret classifications don't impress me, and never have. There's not a censorship stamp in the whole city (of Washington)," Anderson said, adding that when the government wishes to cover a mistake or inefficiency, it becomes "secret."

"The news belongs to the people. It does not belong to the government," Anderson replied to a question from local attorney Fred C. Culver Jr., a member of the Economic Development Corp. of the City of Muskegon (EDC), which the Chronicle is suing for access to its public records.

"I," said Anderson, "want to know what Henry Kissinger is doing, not what he says he's doing. I want to know what the President is thinking, not what he says he's thinking."

To help him know all that, Anderson employs 10 full-time reporters and seven interns, he said. He spends a fair share of his time lecturing and, as he did on arrival in Muskegon Tuesday, dictates his column over the telephone.

Anderson has sued former President Richard Nixon and several of his aides for \$22 million. He said he would rather not be filing it, but is doing it for its implications for press freedom. He was chosen by the Fund for Constitutional Government, which is financing the suit, because he was the most "harassed and investigated" reporter during the Nixon administration.

The suit, he said, "is not all that serious," he said, but any award he receives will be used for "other freedom of the press causes."

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