

Maybe Modesty's 'In' This Year

MODESTY in the connotation of freedom from conceit or vanity has not disappeared from the earth, although modesty in the form of propriety in dress or conduct may be somewhat scarce at times.

A review of statements reported in the news each day turns up a surprising number of self-effacing comments.

For example, after President Ford heard his economic advisers analyze the economy, he said: "It probably would appear this month we are moving into a recession."

Following a visit with the President, Speaker of the House Carl Albert told newsmen: "I don't determine all the legislative policies of the nation."

Amid rumblings of renewed hostilities in the Mideast, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger summed up his feelings: "We do not think a war is likely."

Charles H. Smith, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, after a 2-day Economic Summit Conference, said he saw "a gross lack of understanding on the part of so many congressmen there that a cut in federal spending is an urgent first step to take if inflation is to be conquered."

Rep. Clem McSpadden, speaking as a cattleman: "We have fewer friends today in Washington than we had five years ago."

When President Ford repeated publicly that a proposed tax increase on gasoline was out of consideration, in spite of continued support by Sec-

retary of Interior Rogers C. B. Morton, the latter said: "I've certainly gotten the word. I think he's ruled it out."

Robert Gordon of the University of California at Berkeley, president-elect of the American Economics Association, admitted: "There's a lot we don't know."

While discussing general election results, Sen. Dewey Bartlett told newsmen: "There wasn't the interest in some races this year there could have been."

At the governors conference in South Carolina, Minnesota Gov. Wendell R. Anderson said he wouldn't be a candidate for president in 1976, because both Minnesota senators, Hubert H. Humphrey and Walter Mondale, apparently plan to run. Anderson said: "I think that is about as much as the country can

stand from Minnesota."

Then J. D. Sapp, who is considering becoming a candidate for the Oklahoma City council, said: "There's no big hue and cry for me to run for the city council."

Modest statements appear on the sports pages, too. After the OSU Cowboys stalled in the Colorado game, Coach Jim Stanley said: "Bad field position happens more when you are not playing good defense than when you are."

Modesty shows up in business, too. When owners were advised to bring in their Cadillacs for a small but vital correction, they were told that its failure could adversely affect steering control. "As a result, vehicle crash can occur without prior warning," the letter said.

Modesty is a virtue, and it's still here.