

Pool Report on Oct. 1st Trip to Bethesda....

The President and pool departed the White House after dinner driving to the hospital up the GW parkway to 495 and then down Wisconsin^{Ave.}....The President arrived at the hospital at about 8:40 pm and he was accompanied Jack Stiles (sp?) a Michigan friend...Mr. Ford bought his wife a gift from Italian President Leone which appeared to be a green suede tote bag with the Italian designer Gucci's name stamped on the side....The president called it a little "personal gift"...Asked if there was anything in side he replied, "No its just a bag...you know woman have to have something like that..."

The President was in the hospital about an hour and 15 minutes...He emerged smiling saying.. "She was in great spirits, I thought she made unbelievable progress...." She had alot of things for me to do, reminding me of things I had to do around the White House..."

Question: Is she anxious to get back to the WH?"
 "Well I dont think its quite that far along yet...the doctors think she has done very very well and a... this is of course very encouraging..."

"It was very very encouraging she was in wonderful spirits, she a, we had alot of laughs, and a, it was very...just a wonderful evening...."

Question: Have they arrested the cancer?

" Well I am not qualified to say that...we hope so... "

Question: How did she like the bag?

" Oh well most women like those handbags you know and this was very nice...she appreciated it from the Italian President..."

The President then walked toward his limosine where he was engaged in conversation by Phil Jones.. What ensued was idle chatter about Vail and skiing.. The President perked up in that discussion and announced they've already had snow out there...

He then returned to the White House via Wisconsin Avenue and Rock Creek Parkway...

10:35 pm

Walt Rodgers
AP Radio