

Polk Report--Ford on Air Force One--Indianapolis-Washington 10/16

No sign of the President, but Ron Nessen came back to advise us of the following:

1. Continuing Resolution containing provision for immediate cutoff of aid to Turkey if it ships weapons to Cyprus:

Nessen said "He hasn't made a final decision but he's certainly leaning in that direction. (That is, another veto)"

Asked if he would like allow the Turks to ship ammo in, Nessen said "He thinks you have an impossible policing situation on that. His basic reason is the reason he vetoed the other one," that it "would undermine these delicate negotiations."

2. No briefing Thursday AM because Pres on Hill. A prepared statement will be delivered which will be avbl at 10 am at HU and Hill. "Nothing he says tomorrow will in any way affect or cast doubt on what he has said over and over again: He did it out of conviction and conscience. There was no pre-arranged deal or anything like that." Re pol effect of pardon: "He feels that tomorrow will be the end of it as far as he is concerned."

3. Vets ed bill and freedom of info act: No decision on veto. "He's still wrestling with that,"

4. Reaction to trip: "He was happy with his crowds and his reception all day." He esp liked Sioux Falls. Someone on plane figured he was seen by 40,000 in past two days. Re election "He feels he can have an effect." No predictions.

Carl Leubsdorf, AP (assisted by
Carlson, Kondracke, Norton) 10/16