

NOVEMBER 1, 1974

POOL REPORT
AIR FORCE ONE - FRESNO TO PORTLAND

After the President left the speaker's stand at Fresno (still wearing the Stetson given him by Mayor Pringle), he headed for the crowd behind the stand, walking the rope all the way, shaking with both hands. He did not seem to notice half a dozen sign-carriers who followed along carrying signs such as "Stop Aid to Chile and South Vietnam"; "We can't afford Ford"; "Nixon appointed Ford." When the rope ended in a six-foot Cyclone fence topped with barbed wire, he reached over the fence for a couple more handshakes, waved the hat and headed for the plane, which he boarded after thanking local police detail.

Wheels up about 12:55 (approximately 10 minutes late.) Once airborne, Nessen came back to say the Fresno sheriff's office put the airport crowd at 10,000 and said it was "about the same size crowd that Kennedy had in 1962."

Asked if the President discussed the pardon when he talked with Nixon, Nessen said no; that health and foreign policy were the only two topics discussed.

Nessen returned to front cabin to lunch with the President.

Waiting to see the President was Diarmuid O'Scanlain, former Oregon public utilities commissioner, who is the GOP candidate in Oregon's 1st CD for the seat vacated by Representative Wendell Wyatt (R). His opponent is Les Aucoin (D)

O'Scanlain said he had run behind in private poll in August, the gap was closing in September and he now thinks it will be "a very close race." He gave no figures. Says people are upset by high prices, that there's concern about the economy, but serious unemployment in only one part of the district -- Tillamook County, a plywood center.

O'Scanlain said he disagreed with Ford on the Nixon pardon; felt it should not have come before the full story was out. Also opposed the 5% tax surcharge; feels the primary emphasis should be on cutting spending. But he says he's strong for the other parts of Ford's anti-inflation package, especially antitrust enforcement and loosening of mortgage money.

O'Scanlain says he expects "some favorable" impact from the Ford visit and "no unfavorable" impact.

As for the President's call on Nixon, he said: "I think the people will understand the compassion of a call at a sickbed -- it was a very human thing to do."

Says he strongly supports Ford's move to suspend the Jones Act to permit use of a foreign barge to transport fertilizer from Alaska -- says it will mean a lot to western Oregon farmers.

After a 5-minute visit with Ford, O'Scanlain said they'd had "a very fine conversation" in which Ford agreed with him that "homebuilding is very important."

Don Irwin - Los Angeles Times
David Beckwith - Time