

[1-28-75]

POOL REPORT

President Ford left the white house on schedule at approximately 7:45 a.m. for the Congressional Breakfast sponsored by the National Religious Broadcasters at the Washington Hilton hotel.

The President was preceeded on the program and introduced by his longtime friend, The Rev. Billy Zeoli, Gospel Films, Muskegon, Michigan. In his own remarks Zeoli called on the broadcasters to "Marry the media and the message" of the Gospel...through faith, training, goal and will. In introducing the President he said he was "greatful to God for this man...greatful to God for his (Ford's) Christian testimony."

The President's remarks were delivered with almost no deviation from the prepared text. Best laugh line: speaking of past attendance at such breakfasts he said they had given him "that powerful encouragement which is described in the familiar hymn as 'the fellowship of kindred minds.'" And he added, as in the prepared text, "I might say, in a secular way, I am still hoping for some of that spirit with the new congress."

Best applause line: "...the separation of church and state, although a fundamental principle to which I fully subscribe, was never intended in my view to separate public morality from public policy."

Leaving the hotel the President waved to a small crowd gathered by the motorcade. In response to waves and calls of "Mr. President" he said "have a good day" but did not work the crowd.

Duely inspired (but unfed) we returned to the White House an hour after departure. President returned to Oval Office where he had already been working prior to departure.

A special salute to Brother Nessen who felt led to attend the event with the President since his job involves contact with broadcasters...if not with The Almighty.

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