

4/4/75

POOL REPORT-- ST. FRANCIS HOTEL TO PALM SPRINGS

Motorcade left St. Francis Hotel at 9:50 PM. There were only only a handful of demonstrators shouting unintelligible slogans at the President. In a moment of confusion, the motorcade was slow pulling away and then came to a momentary stop in an intersection near the demonstrators. The pool could not see how close they got to the car, but Chief Secret Service Agent Richard ~~Kiss~~ Keiser was ~~very~~ upset and was overheard on the radio as he said: "Let's go, let's go! You stopped us right in the middle of those people!"

(Also overheard on the radio was a report that a Standard Oil Building three blocks from the St. Francis was the scene of a bombing. This is unverified, overheard information only.)

Wheels were up from Hamilton AFB at 10:38 PM. Ford was seen wandering around ~~in~~ a front cabin talking with Greenspan and Nessen among others. But he stopped a cabin or two short of the press quarters and returned to the front. Hartmann came close enough ~~Nessen~~ to wave hello and returned to the front.

Nessen came back and talked. He said he had been told by "somebody" of the report of the bombing, but had no information or confirmation. Also he said of the motorcade stopping: "I knew ~~if~~ he wanted to move it (he being Keiser) right along. But I got no sense of danger."

"as for the news. Nessen said:

* ~~Kissinger~~ Kissinger will brief earlier than previously announced. Be ~~in~~ in the press ~~center~~ center by 8:30 AM. Why? Because Henry wanted to get it out of the way, Nessen indicated. He said: "He (Kissinger) called me and said he heard on the radio it was going to be at 10 o'clock; and he said 'why does it have to be so late?'"

* Still no word on whether Gen. Weyand will brief us as well.

* Nessen talked to Kennerly on the phone and said Kennerly told him he had "very intense feelings on what he saw." Nessen would not elaborate, saying he wanted to talk with Kennerly in person first.

* ~~There~~ "There is a "real possibility" Ford will return to San Francisco area--to Travis AFB--on Sunday to greet arriving orphans. Could be Monday, he ~~is~~ also said.

* Ford is "very pleased with ~~the~~ the way the day went. Very pleased with his reception at the speech." Talked to his son Jack about the way the speech was received. Ford was "surprised" that ~~at~~ there was interruption of applause at the section on the need for intelligence services.

Air Force One had some turbulence before landing. ~~Very~~ Uneventful ride from airport to estate/home. In the door at 12:10 PM.

--schram/rodgers/mashek