

Q. WDS. - CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR CC.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM UNLESS IT IS OTHERWISE INDICATED.	PRESS DPR NPR	OVER NIGHT TELEGRAM

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POOL R FORT**AIR FORCE ONE**SACRAMENTO TO ANDREWS AFB**SEPT 5. 1975

the president left the senator hotel at 2:45 p.m. and went directly to his limousine without shaking any hands. the pool noted that the press buses were parked directly across from the hotel entrance and partially shielding the president from a fairly large crowd which had gathered.

enroute, nessen said "there was never any debate, discussion or disagreement about the walk" (to the statehouse where today) between the secret service and the president. what followed then was some back-and-forth during which nessen admitted, "it scared the shit out of me."

nessen said ford hadn't talked with mrs. ford yet but that dick keiser (head of the secret service detail), lukash and david kennerly had called to assure mrs. ford the president was all right.

at nessen assured that the president was composed throughout today's incident and he was "not shaken at all." he said the president went on with his schedule and at one point counsellor robert hartmann kidded mr. ford about his foresight in choosing the subject (crime) for his speech to the legislature. nessen said ford "laughed heartily" at hartmann's wit.

asked if the secret service had long ago given up on trying to rein in ford's handshaking et al, nessen said ford was always well protected. "it may look like he's wading into a crowd unprotected, but there's always an envelope around him."

as for saturday's schedule, nessen said that senate democrats some will be meeting with ford at nine a.m. to discuss mostly energy matters. later in the day the president will play in a golf tournament in burning tree country club.

on arrival at mccllellan afb, several thousand people lined the route. The top of the limousine stayed up throughout and some poolers thought the limousine was pulled up to the air force on ramp more closely than usual. the president didn't work the fences as usual but boarded the plane after shaking a few hands. wheels up 3:20 local.

nessen came back early and said ford hadn't called betty yet because he thought she was taking a nap. he will call, though.

on energy, nessen said NO veto before tuesday on the six-month extension of controls. the reason ford has been holding off was because "he seemed to be spirit of compromise and conciliation" and ford didn't want to do anything that would "like he was slapping them in the face."

asked if the incident today had changed ford's views on control, nessen said: "i have no reason to think that it will." believe

--more--

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page 2

the pool asked to talk to agent larry beundorf and the acting head of the detail, ernie ~~luzania~~ luzania. buendorf isn't on the plane and, after checking, nessen said luzania was prohibited from talking about the incident or about secret procedures by ss regulations.

asked if the mansfield energy compromise would fly, n essen said there was no doubt it would fly in the senate but that the problem was the house. he noted that the last compromise plan lost in the house by 39 votes so only 20 switches would carry the day this time. he added "there's a feeling...we might be able to change that many votes on the basis of what some of the members heard at home, which is that people don't want controls to end all at once." he said ford doesn't want controls to end all at once, either; his first choice is phased decontrol.

as for a televised veto speech, nessen said "it just hasn't been decided yet."

ford plans to leave for golf at burning tree around 11:30 saturday.

nessen said he'd never heard ford talk about ever being close to death (in response to a question). he said he'd never heard him talk in those terms but vaguely remembered an interview where ford talked about how a president couldn't keep himself barricaded in the white house or becoming a prisoner of the white house because of the fear something might happen.

nessen said the bentl interview--which was very low-key and (nessen implied) not too newsworthy--will be released for tuesday ayems.

nessen said none of the family had called ford and that he didn't know if anyone had notified rockefeller of friday's attempted shooting.

defrank/rodgers/farney

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page 3

midway in the flight nessen came back for loose ends. he said ford had called his wife and asked her to relay word to the rest of the family and that all was well. they spoke about five minutes.

still no attendance list on the meeting with demos saturday morning at 9 .

he will leave the white house for golf around noon and tee off at one twenty.

~~ford~~ ford and governor brown did talk about offshore drilling but it wasn't a major topic.

nesser said "a few" staffers had asked to welcome ford back tonight and will be on hand to welcome the president back. he said it was totally spontaneous. and that mrs. ford might be on hand ~~to welcome the president~~ *AT THE SOUTH CAWN*

he reiterated one more time--and more strongly--that it was "absolutely untrue" there had been haggling over the advisability of ford's walk. he produced a diagram prepared by the pre-advance team dated august 31 ~~xx~~ which clearly indicates a presidential walk from the hotel to the statehouse.

~~about 90 minutes before touchdown~~ *mid-section* about 90 minutes before touchdown, ford came back to the ~~rear~~ of the plane. he was wearing white sport shirt open ~~at the collar~~ *at the collar* under the blue poplin presidential windbreaker. he appeared to be joking with his ~~agents~~ *S.F. agents*, then he walked forward to the staff compartment and chatted with robert hartmann, ~~and bob orben~~ *and other staff members* he appeared quite at ease, smoking his pipe and laughing. our view was obscured when the cabin door was ~~closed~~ closed. about that time the nbc nightly news coverage of the assassination was ~~was~~ piped over the stereo system. defrank/rodgers/farney .