

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

Read the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

API pooler -- San Francisco to Washington -- Don Fulsom interview with Donald Rumsfeld *about Air Force One soon after takeoff?*

Q: Mr. Rumsfeld, you were with the President when he emerged from the hotel. Exactly what did you see?

A: Rumsfeld: We departed the hotel lobby ~~and~~ ^{and} approached the street in San Francisco and there were crowds of people lined up to the right of the entrance to the hotel and to the left. And then a large crowd across the street lining the street. The President's automobile was directly in front of the door and as we came out several Secret Service Agents and the President and I approached the limousine. The President paused and waved to the crowd of people who had been waiting to see him ~~over~~ ^{over} the top of the car, facing the crowds across the street.

Q: As he did so a shot was fired which all of us heard and it was across the street from where we were standing and slightly to our right. The Secret Service agents then moved down to a low position ~~on~~ ^{on} the curb. I went down also and after a moment the Secret Service said let's get into the limousine. And the door was opened and Ron Pontius and another Secret Service Agent, ~~Mr.~~ (Jack) Merchant and I got into the back seat of the car with the President and stayed in a position that would be protective of the President. And then the Secret Service and the San Francisco Police and the state police did a very fine job of moving the vehicle out of the danger area and to the airport and we got on Air Force One and here we are.

Q: Fulsom: Now did you see the person with the gun?

A: Rumsfeld: When I heard the shot I looked over the top of the car to the right and saw what appeared to be a woman with long hair, although you can't always tell these days; with a gun, and and again, after we had gotten inside the car, I lifted my head up and looked ~~out~~ ^{out} the window of the car and saw a group of policemen who had ~~by~~ ^{by} then converged on the spot where that individual had been standing.

Q: Fulsom: What was the President's ~~reaction~~ ^{reaction}?

A: Rumsfeld: Well, ~~there~~ ^{there} was not really anything said by the President from the time the shot was fired ~~until we moved down and moved into the car and then out of the area.~~ After we were out of that area we were sitting on the seats and ~~we~~ ^{we} were visiting (sic-- talking) about it, the President asked that Mrs. Ford be notified and it turned out that she was arriving almost simultaneously and was not informed really until she arrived here on Air Force One when we discussed it.

Q: Fulsom: As I understand it, you were on the floor quite a while for several minutes after the incident.

A: Rumsfeld: We were down during a period of time when the car was moving out of that area.

Q: Fulsom: The President was down ~~on~~ ^{on} the floor?

A: Rumsfeld: We were down during a period of time when the car was moving out of that area.

Q: Fulsom: The President was down on the floor?

NO. 1035 - CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	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
------------------------	--------------	----------	--------------------------	---	--------------------	------------------------

is the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

Fulson-Rumsfeld--- 2

Rumsfeld: The President was down below and I was on his right. Merchant was on his left, just as we had been outside the car.

Fulson: Can you remember the first thing the President said?

Rumsfeld: I can't. I can't. Er, he did as I say indicated that he would like to have Mrs. Ford informed. That was one of the first things that he said. ~~SHAKEN~~ But, er,

Fulson: Did he look ~~shaken~~ at all, or did he look?

Rumsfeld: He's a strong person and handled it. It was not a pleasant experience but he's back in his business.

Fulson: Do you think he should keep travelling?

Rumsfeld: I think that political leadership in our country represents people and they have to deal with people and there's no question but that this President and Presidents in the years to come will be travelling and meeting with people in various ways. It's inevitable. It's part of our system.

Fulson: Can you say whether he was wearing a bullet proof vest today?

Rumsfeld: He was not.

(end interview ~~of President and Vice President~~ -- filmed; video and audio taped).

Fulson
Osborne