

[11-7-75]

TELEGRAM

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pool report air force one andrews to westover

we took off 10 minutes early. no explanation, except that president was on board so we went. flew over new york and didn't encounter SAM or even ABE missiles. on board were ambassador john volpe, rep. silvio conte (r-mass.) staff on board -- cheney, calkins, greener. nessen remained in washington, preparing for a dinner he is having with attorney general levi tonight.

cheney came back and talked to pool for short time. said he was sworn into his new position as assistant to the president by a white house clerk-notary public on wednesday and "i am doing the job now." he said rumsfeld is spending a lot of time on the hill making courtesy calls on senators and getting ready for his confirmation hearings.

reaction to rockefeller press conference: "my reaction was very positive. i would have been surprised if the vice president had taken himself completely out of consideration (for possible presidential bid)."

last night's cabinet dinner had been scheduled originally for a tuesday night and had to be rescheduled. that's why kissinger couldn't make it -- he had made a speaking engagement previously and could not break it.

asked about ford's relative position to reagan in new hampshire, cheney said: "the president is not trailing ronald reagan based on the information we have."

Q. will rockefeller's withdrawal help the president in new hampshire?
A. ultimately, they will vote on the president, and the withdrawal of the vice president will not have that ~~sing~~ significant an impact one way or another.

when he repeated it for audio, cheney was asked about reports that ford's organization is trailing reagan's in new hampshire. answer -- "i don't believe it is. we have several full-time paid staff people and our committees are organized, and there is a great deal of activity...my own feeling is that we are in pretty good shape in new hampshire."

have they been behind? -- cheney: not to my knowledge. we have been in pretty good shape throughout.

what is the effect of the rocky withdrawal in n.h.? cheney -- "i'm inclined to think the outcome...is likely to depend on the president at that stage of the game. votes will be cast on the voters' perception of the president and not that of the vice president."

-- kohler, hubbard