

POOL REPORT

President's meeting with delegates to 16th Mexican-American Interparliamentary Conference. (Wednesday afternoon Feb. 25)

Group was in state dining room, consuming tea, coffee, cakes, for about 10 minutes when Ford entered, gave a short speech of welcome ~~in Spanish~~ which was interpreted sentence by sentence into Spanish. In it, he said:

*He is a strong believer in annual gatherings of parliamentarians on a bilateral as well as multilateral basis....It is of great help and assistance to those in the executive branch."

*He believes that meetings like the current one "add substance to talks between executives" like the one he had ~~with Mexican~~ in October, 1974, with Mexican President Luis Echeverria Alvarez at their border meeting. They talked then of "trade, tourism, narcotics," and he is sure the current conference will deal with these important issues. He ~~is~~ said he was sure he and Echeverria would "welcome any recommendations that come from this group."

*He observed that an upcoming tour by the Mexican delegation will end in Vail and cautioned the visitors: "I urge you not to fall down while you're out there, and particularly not to do it if there are any cameras around."

*He looks forward to meeting the new President Mexico will elect this year.

A longer response came from ~~Mexican~~ Enrique Olivares, majority leader of the Mexican Senate, who said, ~~according to the translator~~ among other things, according to the translator:

* That the upcoming conference will deal with bilateral problems, each side insisting on its own point of view. Subjects will include: The United Nations and "guaranteeing and enriching its existence"; The Organization of American States "and its adaptation to the new times: "our own ~~efforts~~ joint efforts to control, combat and banish the calamity for the contemporary world represented by the traffic in drugs"; conflicts on the law of the sea, particularly the one ~~one~~ pertaining to the economic exclusive zone; ~~zone~~; protection of human rights; economic problems.

On conclusion of the talk, ~~E~~ Olivares gave Ford a box wrapped in gold paper which he said contained ~~three books~~ a present from Echeverria: Three books on Mexico. Ford responded that they would give him "an opportunity to refresh my recollections of your country."

The Mexican group consisted of about 90 persons, among them 12 members of each house of the Mexican Parliament (total 24). They ~~are~~ flew here today (Wed) from Mexico City, where scheduled, after their 45 minutes at the White House to fly on to Atlanta for two days of meetings with their U.S. counterparts.

Several U.S. members of Congress, including Sen. Mike Mansfield, were on hand to greet them. During Olivares' talk, Ford had two brief conversations with Mansfield in a doorway of the State Dining Room. During one of them, the President appeared amused. During the other, he looked grave.

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