

pool report

Dade County Auditorium to West Palm Beach

The Presidential motorcade departed auditorium 11:10 a. m., five minutes ahead of schedule, arriving at the Marriott near the Hotel, seven minutes later. Ron Nessen, attempting to hitch a ride in a wire car, was evicted by the driver. Protest that trip was non-political ~~is~~ was to no avail.

Ford was greeted at the hotel by Joseph Fogarty, a Miami businessman, who has organized local Ford supporters in the business community to raise campaign funds. The President mingled with 75 persons for about 15 minutes.

Before departure, he spoke off the cuff for about five minutes, thanking the supporters for "all that's been done and all that you will do between now and March 9. I think we have the momentum going, and for the right reasons--the right reasons being the programs we've put into effect in the last 19 months...are paying off... We're on the track of a real, burgeoning, healthy, strong, sound economy because of our policies.... We didn't plan it this way, but every Friday we seem to have good news.

On foreign policy, he said "The United States is never gonna be second to anyone<sup>^</sup> period."

He finished by exorting the gathering to "get as many votes as you can, and if you do, we'll be on our way to a victory on Nov. 2."

On the way out, Ford asked "Is Doctor ~~in~~ John Lovejoy here? He operated on one of my knees...he made it so I can ski." The doctor came forward and chattered with the President, who made his way out through the kitchen, shaking a few hands as he did when he entered.

On the way out, the President turned to Capt. Lee Domina, his marine aide, and said "Say, Lee, how much do I owe you for that ice cream cone?"

It turned out he was referring to last weekend's New Hampshire trip when he bought ~~some~~ ice cream for Mrs. Ford and himself only to find himself out of money. He borrowed \$2 from ~~Domina~~ <sup>DOMINA</sup>.

He was evidently out of money again today, for he borrowed \$2 from Mrs. Ford to pay Domina.

All of which prompted Bo Callaway to observe (joke) "I'd say that's typical of a man who only has \$39 left in his bank account." (a reference to the President's financial statement.)

Af 1 off at Miami at noon.

DeFrank, Fulsom, Abramson

P. S. Nessen advises it is raining <sup>or threatening rain</sup> along much of the motorcade route, hence, stops will be skipped or shortened as necessary. The motorcade will end ahead of the original schedule, but ~~just~~ just how much uncertain.