

POOL REPORT

Residence - Tennis -to the Church
February 29
Sarasota, Florida

The President emerged from his residence right on time at 8:55 a.m. The house was field stone with front colonade but not the most expensive nor classy on the block. The President was wearing white tennis cap, glasses which he wore throughout the tennis match, white jacket, white shorts and he had two elastic knee supporters, one on each knee. He was carrying a tennis racquet which turned out to be black aluminum which he used in both matches.

He began playing tennis at the Field Club (reportedly originally built by the Marshall Field of Chicago) at 9:05 and played for approximately one hour. Pool was allowed to photograph and observe warmup volleys at court side. Then pool was kept behind viewers gallery of some 100 persons.

In the first set the President's partner was Dana Rollings, his Florida state finance committee chairman. Their opponents were the club pro John Lawrence and Bill Getzen the owner of the home in which the Fords spent the night. The President's team lost their match 4-6.

The second set was also lost by the President and partner 4-6. His partner in the second set was Bob VanLede, the Tennis Chairman of the Field Club. Their opponents were Congressman Lou Frey (a rather good player) and Bill Korp a local attorney who is the President's campaign chairman in the Sarasota area.

The President's game has improved somewhat since you saw him at Mackinac Island. He has a fairly consistent serve which is perhaps the strongest part of his game. His net play in doubles is somewhat less consistent. (He tends to foot fault on the serves when he is tired.) Mr. Ford also tends to try to hit the ball before he plants his feet. He can hit some fairly good shots but again not consistently.

After the games the President signed autographs and drank Gatorade. He also posed for pictures. It should also be noted the crowd was with him as he played and applauded him when he hit a good shot or scored a point. He left and someone said good luck.

Returned to residence at about 10:20.

One pooler heard the President say after tennis, "I didn't play very well, but I had fun."

Fords emerged from house at 10:57, 12 minutes late. They were presented with gifts by the family of 2 kids, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kahn, a local resort owner. President received a bicentennial tie, Mrs. Ford a bouquet of rose buds and baby's breath, and they were presented with a bottle of vintage champagne. While waiting for the President to emerge, Nessen told the pool that the President had a swim in backyard pool and breakfast before going off for tennis. Nessen also confirmed

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that the President will overnight in Peoria and that next weekend Illinois trip will be concentrated in the traditional downstate Republican counties. Nessen was again asked whether the President was wearing a bullet proof vest yesterday and he said the White House never talks about those sorts of things but when again questioned he smiled knowingly saying, "That's what's known as a confirming grin."

The First Lady was wearing a white knit dress with hem slightly below the knees. She was carrying white kid gloves and matching white leather purse.

Walt Rodgers
Tom DeFrank
Hal Benedict

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