

**Air Force One Pool Report
to Marion, Illinois**

March 6, 1976

John Carlson reports that on the ground in Marion, 9,000 people have jammed the airport... with traffic backed up in all directions and more people arrive. Carlson called it "chaotic."

On the ground the President will meet about 100 county and PFC county officials from southern Illinois.

John Logan college auditorium capacity is only 2300 seats. Looks like a full house.

Senator Charles Percy wandered past, and felt like talking. (RADIO TAPE AVAILABLE FROM NBC ENGINEER.)

- On Ford's chances: 50% minimum... maybe up into the 60's. He senses a change in voter feeling... pro-Ford.
- He doesn't think he (Percy) would be a "logical" choice as Vice President, since the GOP needs members in the Senate. But he prefaced that with "I don't know of a politician who wouldn't want it."
- Farmers "have a great friend in President Ford" because of his stand on grain embargo, and state tax reform.
- Reagan on detente: Percy says he wrote an article for Miami this past week... saying call it just what it is: relaxing of tensions."

NOTE TO T.V. PEOPLE: NBC MINI-CAM CREW DID NOT CARRY LIGHTS WITH THEM. SO HAD PRESIDENT FORD COME BACK, AS POOL REQUESTED, THEY COULD NOT HAVE TAPED IT.

- Percy on Kissinger: Is he liability in Reagan campaign? "I don't think so. Who is one of the most popular men people in the world and the United States today? I think it's Henry Kissinger." "Of course he's on a roller coaster, he has his ups and downs, but... he is creative, innovative, brilliant, with some mistakes." Question? Who would be good Secretary of State? "I don't know anyone who would come close to Henry Kissinger."

John Osborne - New Republic
Ed O'Brien - St. Louis Post Dispatch
Ann Compton - ABC NEWS

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