

APRIL 29, 1976

## POOL REPORT #17

Travel Pool from Conroe Town Square to Montgomery County PFC  
 Reception.....to Airport, Air Force One to W co

The President departed Conroe Square in a rainstorm which did not deter him from shaking hands all the way to the limo. Uneventful drive to the reception at Holiday Inn. It was a small reception but fortunately plenty of eats for pool and White House free-loaders... Stay away from green jalapeno peppers.

President told PFC, "The Texas primary is getting awfully close and I think we just might win." He also said (paraphrase) we consider Texas as critical if not more so than any of the other 31 primaries. "We've got 70 hours left," and he then urged them to help people to the polls Saturday. He then said "I know after I get the nomination I can win in November. That means I can win against Hubert Humphrey, Jimmie Carter or anyone of the other democratic candidates. I don't care whether they elect 'em or nominate them in the election process or they do it in the smoke filled rooms in New York City when they get down there for their convention. We're gonna win. The crucial vote comes right here in the state of Texas and so we want your maximum help." This was followed by his usual pep talk. He was given a Presidential cake and Bicentennial statue.

Walking to his room to freshen up he was presented with 2 Bicentennial flintlock rifles by Dave Higgenbotham, a local gunsmith. They were really beautiful firearms, a Kentucky longrifle and a British Brown rifle the first of 100 of a series. Posing like the Lexington Minuteman the President then delivered a tough anti gun control sermon. "I respect and admire people who collect beautiful gun pieces and I can assure all of you gun collectors and legal gun users that we're not gonna do anything to take away the right of all of you to have weapons for your protection and as you want to use them. We aren't going to register gunowners, we're not going to register guns. We're going after the criminals who use guns and we'll take care of them."

Asked about HHH decision not to run, President said, "I have nothing to do with those decisions by Senator Humphrey, you have to ask him what the impact is."

He was in holding room 10 minutes and left shaking a few more hands before uneventful ride to Houston Intercontinental Airport.

Kohler, Newhouse  
 Mashek, U.S. News  
 Rodgers, AF Radio

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