

May 7, 1976

**Press Pool Report #4--Bergan-Mercy Hospital to Holiday Inn, Omaha, NB**

As the President left the hospital about 5:45 p.m. (cdt), he was presented with a painting and a placque. The painting was by Sister Mary Matthews of the hospital, a Nebraska landscape. The placque was a memento of the dedication.

Mr. Ford worked the fence briefly as did Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz, who seemed to be campaigning harder than the President.

In the President's limousine were Butz, and Senators Curtis and Hruska, along with the President. The drive to the Ramada Inn took about three minutes. The President, on arrival at the Ramada Inn, went immediately into the Hall of Four Flags, arriving at the reception about 10 minutes early. There were fewer than 100 people when the President arrived, but the crowd grew to about 125 by the time he left 30 minutes later.

According to Press Secretary Ron Nessen, the reception was a fundraiser. (125 tickets sold at \$500 per). The President spent most of the time shaking hands and posing for photographs. His brief remarks, the standard "everything that's supposed to be going up...etc", were piped into the press room.

The President drove from the Ramada to the Holiday Inn. Outside, a three piece brass combo saluted him with the Michigan Fight Song. The lobby of the Holiday Inn was crowded. The President shook hands around the lobby before entering the elevator at 6:30 p.m. (cdt).

Russ Ward--NBC

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