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Kansas City -- I can't believe it!

It's taken eight months, hundreds of motels, thousands of miles and millions of handshakes, but here I am. The connection between those long hours and lonely nights seems almost unreal in the routine of preconvention activities. The snows of New Hampshire and the heat of Texas are already light years away.

It's hard to believe that here in Kansas City over the next four days, a handful of Americans will make one of the three most important decisions affecting the world in 1976. One of the decisions was made in New York. The next decision will be made on Wednesday night when 2261 delegates narrow the choice for the Office of President, the most important man in the world, to just two.

The next four days are the culmination of the most trying commitment Jack Ford has ever made. A commitment which happened accidentally at Ford Headquarters in Boston during a brief 15 minute thank-you and handshake visit with volunteers. Those volunteers who had given incredibly of themselves for a man they had never met and probably never would, resolved for me any doubts or questions I had about the campaign.

(MORE)

PAGE 2

The volunteers in Massachusetts showed me that I could keep my identity and work for the things I believe in while helping the campaign.

The center of activity is the hotel lobby and center ring in this political circus is the bar. The tempo of the bars activities is showed only by the passing of the convention stars -- the politicians, the media, and the uncommitted delegates.

First appearances gives the impression that everything is random and directionless. However, the more I observe, the stronger the pattern emerges. I find myself grouping people by their apparent function; the politician who talks with everyone, the media who try to listen to everyone with the delegate in between. Other players include the political groupies who try very hard to be very serious and deep and the Yippies, all 75 of them, who ridicule everything but themselves.

So the players are ready, the final flurry of backstage maneuvering is winding down, the superstars are ready in their dressing rooms, the eyes of the world have lit the stage and I am lucky enough to have a ring side seat.

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$$\begin{array}{r} 145 \\ 23 \overline{) 43} \\ \underline{46} \end{array}$$

K. C., I can't believe it!

It's taken eight months, hundreds of motels, thousands of miles and millions of handshakes, but here I am. The connection between those long hours and lonely nights seems almost unreal in the routine of preconvention activities. The snows of New Hampshire ~~and~~ ^{are already} or the heat of Texas ~~seem~~ light years away ~~already~~.

It's hard to believe that here in Kansas City over the next four days, a handful of Americans will make one of the three most important decisions affecting the world in 1976. ^{One decision of 1976} On Wednesday night, ^{when} 2261 delegates will narrow the choice for the Office of President, the most important man in world, to just two. ~~the man~~

The
decision
was made
in N.Y.
The next
decision
will be
made

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might of had about the campaign. I never questioned my commitment to ~~my road~~, but I doubted my ability to make a meaningful contribution. ~~Much was achieved in small fields~~ The achievements The rest was easy, on to Illinois. and out. Trip of the Field

and potential of the Ford
Presidency ~~was a~~ ~~condition~~
~~and~~ were ~~also~~
~~also~~ were important
to me as a citizen, but I
didn't want to become
a depersonalized symbol. 1)

1 The volunteers in Mass followed ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~the~~ ^{me} ~~work~~ ^{work} for the things I believe in and help the campaign.

After all,

took new turns. In

The road to Kansas City only ~~got crazier~~ more stops in more states. More interviews, more questions, more pictures, more talk shows all of which seemed at the time an almost unbearable burden -- day in and day out. As I reflect I can't help but wonder what kept me going and the answer is always the same, it's those people in those tiny Headquarters who pass out the literature, knock on the doors, and make phone calls. Those are the people who got me here to Kansas City. In fact, it's those people who made Kansas City and New York City possible. ~~The little people who knowingly or unknowingly~~ ^{The workers in neighborhood HQs are the} are deciding the future of America.

As I watch all the hobnobbing, chest pounding and



Kansas City -- I can't believe it!

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It's hard to believe that here in Kansas City over the next four days, a handful of Americans will make one of the three most important decisions affecting the world in 1976. On Wednesday night, two thousand sixty one delegates will narrow the choice for the Office of President, the most important

The three most important decisions of 1976 are the Democratic and Republican nominees -- and the election in November. No other decision of the American People affects the world as much.

To an observer, running for the nomination might seem crazy. It's six months -- or more -- of backbreaking work for the privilege of working even harder to win the general election. It is one of the great ironies that the skills required to win an election are almost irrelevant to doing a good job once the election is won.

There are people who thrive on elections. They love the grueling pace and superficial contact with millions of people. I've learned to do it, but I haven't learned to love it.

Pg 1
first draft

K.C. I can't believe it!

It's taken eight months, hundreds of motels, thousands of miles & millions of handshakes but here I am.²² The connection between those long hours and lonely nights seems almost unreal in the routine of pre convention ~~do~~ activities.¹⁹ The snows of N.H. or the heat of Tex seem light years away already. (55)

It's hard to believe that here in K.C. over the next four days a handful of Am. will make one of the three most important decisions affecting the world in 1976. ~~Two thousand two hundred and sixty one~~ del. On Wed. night 22-61 del. will narrow the choice for office of President, ~~to two most~~ the most important man in world to just two.

$$\begin{array}{r} 219 \\ 43 \\ 67 \\ \hline 108 \end{array}$$



Pg 2

America has probably one of the craziest ways of choosing

Those days when

~~As I see~~

Sitting here in the Crown Center
Sord H. Q. at the Convention

~~The~~

The next few days is the ~~end~~ culmination of the most trying commitment Jack Sord has ever made. A commitment which happened ~~almost~~ accidentally at Sord H. Q. in Boston during a brief 15 min thank & handshake visit with vol. Those vol. who had given incredibly of themselves for a man they had never met & probably never ~~who~~ would ~~helped~~ resolved for me any doubts about helping in the campaign. From then on it was easy, there was no doubt about the task at hand ~~question about~~ what I would how I could help ~~what I~~ doubts or questions I might of had about the campaign.

The next steps were easy, 42 stops in four days in ILL, 26 stops in two days in Wis., ~~and~~ 3 thousand miles in five days in Tex. ~~is~~

The rest was easy, on to ILL.

pg 3

~~Wis, Tex, Nev, Mich, Colo, Calif, NY~~

The Road to K.C. only got crazier, more stops in more states. More interviews more questions, more ~~photos~~ pictures, more talk shows but it was always all of which seemed at the time an ~~an~~ almost unbearable burden — day in and day out. ~~The saying~~ As I reflect I can't help but wonder what keep me going and the answer is always the same, it's those people in those tiny H.Q. ~~is those~~ always in some ~~fun~~ down ~~ston~~ front ~~who come in~~ who have never met ~~me~~ and probably never will meet ~~me~~ who knock on the doors, make the phone calls and pass the word who pass out the lit., knock on the doors & make phone calls. Those are the people got me here to K.C. In fact it's those people who make K.C. & NYC possible. The ^{little} people who knowing or unknowing are deciding the future of ~~the~~ Ame. ~~but~~ ~~this~~

~~When you see the~~
~~As I watch all the~~ hobnobbing
chest pounding &

It one of the great ironies that the skills required to win an election are almost irrelevant to doing a good job once the election is won.

~~Kansas City, ^{potatoes} Belmont of 187~~

The three most important decisions ~~for the~~ future of the world of 1976 are the Democratic and Republican nominees — and the election in November. No other decision of the American People ~~has the impact on~~ affects the world so much.

~~Our ^{election process} is crazy~~
To an observer, running for the nomination might seem crazy. Its six months — or more — of backbreaking work for ~~a prize that~~ the privilege of working even harder to win the general election. ~~I think the experience must be~~

like a house purchase. The rush of pleasure at finding and financing the place — ~~balanced~~ with the eventual reality that it ~~will take~~ 30 years.

There are people who thrive on elections. They ~~love~~ love the queuing pace and ~~that~~ superficial contact with ^{millions} of people. ~~I've learned to do it, but I~~ ^{haven't} ~~but I~~ ^{learned} ~~but I find myself as fit as~~ ^{to love} ~~others, who would rather work on~~ ^{it.}
~~Its too bad there's no one in our family like that. We're used to ~~the~~ campaigns, but we much prefer getting to know a few people to meeting thousands.~~

~~Dad never sought the Presidency, as we weren't prepared for the contest.~~

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231
The next four days are the culmination of the most trying commitment Jack Ford has ever made. A commitment which happened accidentally at Ford Headquarters in Boston during a brief 15 minute thank-you and handshake visit with volunteers. Those volunteers who had given incredibly of themselves for a man they had never met and probably never would, resolved for me any doubts or questions I had about the campaign. I never questioned my commitment to Dad, but I doubted my ability to make a meaningful contribution. The achievements and potential of the Ford Presidency were important to me as a citizen, but I didn't want to become a depersonalized symbol.

Page 2

The volunteers in Massachusetts showed me that I could keep my identity & work for the things I believe in while helping the campaign.

After Ill. the road to Kansas City took new turns with more stops in more states, more interviews, more questions, more pictures, more talk shows -- all of which seemed at the time an almost unbearable burden, day in and day out. As I reflect, I can't help but wonder what kept me going, and the answer is always the same, it's those people in those tiny Headquarters who pass out the literature, knock on the doors, and make phone calls. Those are the people who got me here to Kansas City. In fact, it's those people who made Kansas City and New York City possible. The workers in neighborhood Headquarters are the people who are deciding the future of America.

As I watch all the hobnobbing, chest pounding and

~~Just stop~~

~~Just getting around is crazy~~

~~The next stop is~~

~~We're late for next —~~

We we're running late for
our next stop. ~~to welcome~~
~~to welcome my father was arriving~~

~~The S.S. were~~

~~We arrived at the hotel garage~~
We arrived at the hotel garage
and the S.S. had the way
through the service basement
of the hotel. Unfortunately we
got lost unbelievably ~~late~~

Incredibly, we got lost! To
compound our problems all hotel
workers around several more
wrong turns and dead end
corridors later we arrived at
the ~~right level~~ lobby level of
the hotel kitchen. ~~We made~~
Despite ourselves we made on time!



~~Even in the to~~
It was incredible though
even ~~from the~~ in the ~~lower~~ basement
levels of the hotel y

~~The next big event of the day~~
was the Presidents arrival.

The biggest event of the day
though was the Presidents arrival.
Several hours before people had
began packing themselves in ~~to~~
~~every~~ and the lobby. So many
people had shown up that



From all accounts there are
eight to ten thousand ^{members of the} press ~~of~~ here
~~today~~ and I believe it! That
means there ~~are~~ ^{is} five members
of the press for every delegate.



during VRS anything
The general class - more socializing than
B. comes in gen. standing center
cuts across candidate lines
Hap. less so.



~~Amelia~~
First baby has constant
flow of guests, old &
newspaper coming up.

Puss is hunting for everything
V. P. in floor draws most
Cameras at hunting
"Can't find shooting scene
Gael Stoupe
Cann
Complan

Where ever mother goes the
people stomp, clap, jerk. ~~She~~

→ The Penn. caucus was my first
real heavy moment. Gov. Reagan
& Sen. S. had just spoken.
K.C. Gov. Reagan had just spoken
to them considered one of the finest
speakers pitch men had just
spoken. Needless say this 24 yr.
old pol rookie was scared silly.
I'm not even sure what I ~~said~~
was saying, but the nodding heads
in the ^{deliberation} audience were reassuring.
Before I knew I was done & we ~~were~~
were off to next event. Things went well!

The crowd
generated such
activity
I never saw
him so
psyched
4 more uncommitted deb announced for Jan
The Crown Center lobby was ~~as~~
packed w/ people & hrs. before the
Pres. arrived. Peeking through a
door from the kitchen the crowd was
so psyched for his arrival it was
unintelligible. Cheers, not stomping,
& still more people ^{trying to} squeezing in.
The Pres. ~~arrived~~ ^{arrives} & ~~the~~ my father
is ~~clearly~~ definitely ~~psyched~~ ^{psyched}! This
guy ~~who~~ loves people, there is an
instant chemistry between him & the
crowd that ~~isn't~~ I ~~can't~~ possibly is
put into words. ~~difficult~~ impossible
to put into words. He's a people
person.



①

Each succeeding day of the
convention it becomes harder &

harder to be a just Jack Ford.

It's a struggle sometimes not to be selfconscious.
The first night in K.C. I slipped

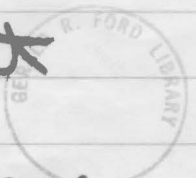
into a local rest. totally unnoticed.

By the second evening some

people were stopping me. But

now it's almost impossible to move

anywhere in public. ~~there are no more when~~
the handshaking



~~Handwritten scribble~~

AD. No. 1

The Penn. caucus was my first real heavy moment of the convention. Gov. Reagan, ~~he~~ considered by almost everyone ^{to be} one of the best pitch pitch men in the business, had just spoken. ~~I was~~ Needless to say this 24 year old pol. rookie was scared to death. ~~I'm not even sure what~~
~~If someone asked me what I~~
~~sitting on the platform I~~ ~~would~~
kept telling myself, smile. The fact that the entire rear of the room was T.V. cameras & reporters, ~~didn't~~ make me any ~~do make~~ ~~for~~ something I hadn't expected, didn't make me any ~~more~~ more comfortable. ~~But that~~
Right then I wish someone had

(3)

made^{me} with a speech, I didn't
have any idea what I ~~was~~
wanted to say. ~~What do you tell~~
~~I wasn't sure that that~~
~~Who was I to think what Jack~~
Sord had on his mind, ^{would he} ~~made~~ any
difference. The next 15 min. are
almost a blank, I'm not ~~really~~
~~so~~ sure what I said ~~except~~
but the words ~~came out~~ and
the delegates ^{seemed to} responded. ~~Q~~ ~~Then~~
~~After~~ ^{Today} I heard that four
uncommitted del. switched to Sord -
— ~~things went well, I don't~~
~~guess I'll never know~~
~~if I had any I hope~~
something I said helped them
decide,



-4-

Next stop was the Crown Centre Hotel
— The Pres., ~~my father~~ was arriving.
Scheduled to arrive momentarily.
The lobby ~~was~~ had been packed w/ people
as early 2 hours before. ~~Stick~~ Sticking
my head out the kitchen door I ~~noticed~~
to work our way to ~~we~~ dad ~~see~~
~~to~~ ~~I had~~ The place was so packed
w/ people we had to work our way
through the service areas of the
hotel itself. ~~to~~ The only way
to ~~get to move~~ we could ~~get~~
get where we were going was
through the service area of
the hotel. ~~to~~ The S.S. lead the
way and before we ~~to~~ ~~to~~
~~lost~~ knew ~~to~~ we were lost.
All we had

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

political animal?

why doing this

- once in lifetime - middle of camp-elect process

- talking at the most important man in world - involved w/ best person

sons + daughters rebels

I have differences - never 100% agreement

what tell delegates

no set pitch - listen - what's on their mind - more comfort - not 'being talked at'

7

no one part grip - bird perspective of people

liberal vs conser

dad did well in 18-25 yrs - than Carter - reflect of feeling for man -

sisters + brothers doing more
Susan

Carter clear everybody, camp reflects on dad - not arm-twister everyone own flexibility - Mike -

WH first fam to get?

circumstances -



Cntes.
vs ford
earnest

RR-2 other times

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Concern ab mthr -

she's best trooper of all - good eyes -
left for whole family - lead battle
very pos impact

all the Fords like it - what happd?

Comitmt to mar-tren just as filer
and friend as well

goes back to who going to be man
no doubt in anyone's mind on whose
best.

not terms of liv in WH

What's hap (RR)

combin

1st time running natl ofc
RR 2 other occas - dad's 1st
natl const

above mbrg of RP as highly ideology

stere

not a case of resp to wng
gthg message across as effectualy
as poss

how many times been across people

frustrated?

a certain amt. Difficult to spend
that time - good tho - focused
attn - drawg defin line on

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

where he stands on issues

low pt?

texas prim - maj of Rep vote but
Dem crossover -

effect on family?

I get down. He's one who says no
reason to throw hands - reflect
in later primaries

Opt?

I feel good - then lessons. Drawn lines
clearly. Who he is +
winning now

unless unexpected explos, don't see problems
Reag camp why so desperately to
keep fluid

gtr bug?

No I think - I enjoy -
once camp over satis appet
rather help - behind scenes

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Steve

bonnie angelo

Susan

be on time

