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[8/15/76]

## Pool Report--Air Force One--Andrews to Kansas City

Only thing new from Nessen was that after dinner tonight, Ford will hold a series of meetings in his suite with various campaign advisers and strategists. Nessen said "probably about a dozen or more (persons)" would attend and the meetings probably would last a couple of hours. No names given the pool but Nessen promised a list after arrival.

Now, Earwigs, Nessen has disclosed the real reason for the trip to Kansas City. The President, he says, "is going there to accept the nomination of his party, to pick and announce a vice presidential running mate and to get his campaign off to a good start." Ear is appalled.

As for the rest of it: Ford motorcaded to Andrews because of a rainstorm. This delayed takeoff, which was at 4:58 p.m. instead of 4:40.

On board, as listed by ~~XXXX~~ Nessen: Alan Greenspan, Max Friedersdorf, Bob Orben, Doug ~~XXXX~~ Smith, Jim Connor, Ed Schmultz, Jim Cannon, Don Penny, Maria Downs, Bob Hartmann, Brent Scowcroft, Jack Marsh, David Kennerly and Senator Jacob Javits. Nessen said Javits was in Philadelphia today to attend the funeral of his assistant who was killed in the attempted hijacking. Javits ~~he~~ could not get commercial transportation back to Kansas City and called the White House to see if it could help, so the President invited him to come along on Air Force One. we  
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Nessen said Ford would be welcomed at the Kansas City airport by Gov. Robert Bennett of Kansas and Mrs. ~~XXXX~~ Bennett. Gov. Christopher S. (Kit) Bond of ~~XX~~ Missouri, who was to have been at the airport, had a schedule conflict--he is giving a reception--and could not get to the airport, Nessen said.

At the Crown Center Hotel, the President and Mrs. Ford will be welcomed by the Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller and the three Ford children who are already in Kansas City--Jack, Steve and Susan. Sheila says Michael and his wife Gayle will arrive Tuesday evening. She also says Mrs. Ford will go to a reception for the Michigan delegation this evening and then to a reception for Rocky, while Steve will attend the Wisconsin caucus, also tonight.

Family dinner in the Ford suite at the Crown Center tonight about 8 p.m., as you already know.

The briefing room and Nessen's office will be on the third floor of the Crown Center. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Nessen says each day's Bible will be available the night before and his briefing time will be posted on the bulletin board in the press-room some time this evening.



AUGUST 16, 1976

POOL REPORT--PRESIDENT TO JOHN RHODES RECEPTION

The President left the hotel at 6:10 p.m. for the uneventful drive to the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel for the reception being given by House Republican Leader John Rhodes of Arizona. He was alone in his car except for the agents.

Rhodes met him in the lobby. They boarded an elevator but it wouldn't work, so the President and party climbed a steep flight of stairs to the mezzanine ballroom. As he reached the mezzanine and began shaking hands with the crowd, Elizabeth Ray was noticed standing behind the President.

She was wearing a blue T-shirt. Advanceman Doug Blaser, saying that Ms. Ray did not have proper credentials, escorted her behind the rope. The President apparently was not aware of Ms. Ray's presence.

The pool was not allowed in the reception. The President left after less than a half hour, waving to the crowd on the street outside (maybe 300 or so, chanting "We want Ford" and waving the usual signs). Arrived back at 6:47 p.m.

Gaylord Shaw/L. A. TIMES

# # #

August 17, 1976

POOL REPORT - PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH REGIONAL WHIPS  
AUGUST 17, 1976 - 8:30 a.m.

President had convened the meeting before we came in. Meeting was held in his 18th floor office (large room with desk, conference table, beige rug). List of those present will be distributed by the White House. President was sitting between Rogers Morton (on his left) and Robert Griffin (on his right).

Ford was asked, "Who's winning?" He replied: That was decided two to three weeks ago. "

Do you have a Vice President? "We have several. " How many is several? "The dictionary says it's more than two. " Is he asking for the whips' advice on Veep? "We certainly get their help. "

President said, "It's more pleasant here than other places you've been. " We didn't know what he meant. "

Asked the outlook for 16C, Ford said, "I'm optimistic. " What did he think of the keynote address?? "I thought all the speeches were good. " He laughed, satisfied with his remark. We were then ushered out and Helen Thomas told the President to "carry on".

Gruenberg - Chicago Daily News  
Drew - New Yorker Magazine  
Berger - NBC

# # #



[8/17/76?]

Pool Report--President's visit with Illinois delegation.

Drive to Hilton Plaza uneventful. The President was met outside by a crowd of about 100, many waving official PFC banners, and a band playing the Michigan Fight Song. Ford shook hands with some in the crowd along the ropes, including Uncle Sam, who a couple of days ago was dressed as Abe Lincoln. His name is Franklin Burke. Although Reagan, who appeared earlier before the delegation, had allowed pool coverage, your pool was not permitted inside the Regency Room, where Ford met the delegates. He got a good cheer when he went in, chants of WE Want Ford and occasional applause during his presentation, which lasted about 35 minutes. A few minutes before it broke up, Tom Railsback came out and aided Ford's talk and the questions were "very standard and expected." Asked by one of the uncommitted why he won't name his running mate before the balloting, Railsback quoted Ford as saying: "The major issue is not between running mates but between me and Reagan." Railsback said Ford did say his selection would be "more moderate" than Schweiker, which Railsback took to mean "more conservative." Ford also told delegates his campaign would be a positive one. FYI: The Illinois delegation, according to reporters there, stands Ford 81, Reagan 12, Uncommitted, eight.

saul friedman

Pool Report 9.20 a.m August 18.

President arrived in PFC offices at 8.45, grinning broadly. Shook hands, told them "I feel great and I will feel better tonight." Posing for pictures with his arm around a small volunteer, the President said, "It was a great night 1 st night and it came about because of all the hard work of people like you here and around the country. It is a big step toward the result that we are going to get tonight and, more important, the result we are going to get in November."

Volunteers applauded, cheered.

President then proceeded to office of motor pool staff, shook ~~more~~ hands. One man told him, "I would work for the President of the United States for free."

President paused on balcony overlooking main lobby of hotel, waved at people, who looked surprised. Not many people around at that hour. Inspected the waterfall, said, "This place is hopping."

Entering elevator, President was asked if he had any vice presidential candidates coming in to see him today. He said, "I might have a lot of them."

President then went back up to 18th floor office where he posed for pictures sitting around a marble topped table with nine governors. Two more --Holshouser and Moore --were delayed in traffic but ~~xxxxxxx~~ due to arrive.

All GOP governors there except Meldrim Thomson and Edwards of S.C. ~~Ford~~ Ford made a point of congratulating Governor Robert Ray of Iowa for "all his hard work with some very tough problems" as chairman of the platform committee.

end pool report. dobbin ~~xxx~~ schieffer wells

Aug. 18, 196x 1976

# POOL REPORT

## Trip to Radisson Muehlebach Hotel for Republican Victory luncheon.

The president's motorcade left the Crown ~~Center~~ Center Hotel for a five minute trip to the 12th St. ~~entrance of the~~ entrance of ~~the~~ Radisson ~~Muehlebach~~ Muehlebach Hotel.

~~The~~ Crowds of supporters, some of whom had been put in place hours before, greeted ~~the~~ the Fords as ~~the~~ they arrived. Both the president and Mrs. Ford stood up through the sunroof of their limousine to wave at the crowd.

When they alighted from the ~~motorcade~~ car, they were ~~greeted~~ greeted at the entrance by Mrs. Mary Louise Smith, the RNC chairman, ~~Henry Bloch~~ Henry Bloch, the president of H & R Block and a local fund raiser, and ~~Jeremiah Milbank~~ Jeremiah Milbank, Republican ~~national~~ finance chairman.

The ~~entourage~~ entourage went by elevator to the mezzanine level, where they were greeted by more ~~Ford~~ Ford backers, mostly ~~young~~ young. They maintained an incessant chanting of "M - O - R - E, We want Ford."

The Ford Party went into a reception room--~~a~~ sort of a holdin<sup>g</sup> area--and came out at 12:31 p.m. ~~The~~ Ford shook *hands* with some of the youngsters on his way into the luncheon.

Eight minutes later, ~~R~~ Ronald Reagan arrived and went into the reception area.

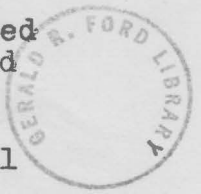
Though Ford had been scheduled to stay half an hour, he cut his visit short and reached the ~~12th~~ 12th St. entrance on his way out at 12: 46 p.m..

By this time, the crowds ~~lined~~ jammed both sides of both sidewalks on the 12th St. ~~side~~ side of the hotel. Ford shook a few more *hands* and he and Betty waved to the crowd.

Again, they stood up through the sunroof and stayed there for two blocks. They sat down as their car rounded the corner at 11th and Baltimore.

The president arrived back at the Crown Center Hotel at 12:52 p.m.

Strobe Talbot, Time  
Frank Aukofer, Milwaukee Journal



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August 19, 1976

Pool Report -- Visit to President's Suite

We spent a lot of time in a holding room and we weren't actually taken into the working study until the beginning of the roll call vote. The President was seated immediately in front of a bank of three televisions. He was listening to Chancellor, to NBC. He was in shirt sleeves, without a tie on and pinstripe pants. He was smoking his pipe. He had a little coffee table next to him on which was a small elephant, we were told, made out of banana leaves, if I heard it correctly.

Then, there was a microphone wired up into the banana leaf elephant. They were shooting campaign film, and it was to pick up the President's remarks as he made remarks. Seated around him on a couch immediately to the left were Jack Marsh, Bob Teeter, Stu Spencer -- Teeter is the pollster for the President Ford Committee -- and Cheney was on his immediate right. I will go around the room counterclockwise. Marsh, Teeter, Spencer, later Nessen came in and sat down next to Spencer, then the President sitting in the middle on a chair and to his right were Cheney and Bryce Harlow.

All were in shirt sleeves except Cheney and Harlow. They had coats on.

The President had an open briefcase at his feet. I couldn't tell what was in the briefcase, but it was filled with notebooks and briefing papers and that kind of thing.

He was working from a Xeroxed tallysheet and for the first 20 minutes or so of the roll call vote he sat rather impassively with a yellow pencil occasionally ticking off States, but not all of them by any means.

We didn't get in at the beginning of the roll call. We came in in just about the D's. The first quote from the President that I got was when Louisiana -- there was an abortive attempt to get Louisiana to poll all of the delegates. The President turned to Marsh and said, "Did this surprise you, Jack?" He said, "What did they do, try to withdraw that count?" Marsh said, "Yes."

The next quote was, 'he' saw his son Steva on the screen with a cowboy hat and he turned from the screen and said, "That is quite a cowboy hat Steve has on."

Then, when it came time for Minnesota to vote and Anchor Nelson stood up to announce the vote, the President said, "Anchor Nelson, he is a great guy." Then, Mississippi came up and the vote was announced, 14 Reagan, 16 Ford. Bryce Harlow leaned over and said, "That represents just a little bit of endeavor," and everybody laughed. Then, Tom Curtis, of Missouri, stood up and the President said, "Tom has almost lost his voice."

MORE





There were numerous football jokes, as you recall, from the chairman of the delegations, Nebraska, and the President laughed at all of them. Just before that, the Montana guy stood up and mentioned his State was the last of the big-time spenders and the President said, "He has to pronounce that pretty carefully."

At the New Jersey count, the President said, "That is two better," and then for New York, when the camera was on Rosenbaum, he said, "Look at old Rosie." In New York, Richardson got one vote and Stu Spencer commented, "Richardson is killing us."

New York was the State that put him ahead and, as it was called, Harlow said, "Here it comes," and then it was the President who said, "Look at old Rosie," and then somebody referred to him as the Chancellor, the Iron Chancellor. Then Spencer made the line about Richardson killing them.

In New York City the still photographers and the TV crew came into the suite. When New York was called, Harlow said, "Here it comes," indicating New York was going to put him ahead. At that point the President said, "Look at old Rosie," when he came on the screen. I think it was Marsh who referred to him as the Iron Chancellor, just dropped it in, and then they listened to the vote count in New York and that is when Spencer said, "Richardson is killing us."

When the Pennsylvania count was announced at 93 for Ford, he said, "Drew Lewis said that two months ago, he sure did." Then he turned to Marsh and said, "He did a great job," speaking of Lewis.

In Nebraska there was the first reference to the football thing about number one, they said they were number one in football games and the President laughed at that and then Oklahoma came up and the fellow said, "Nebraska knows we are number one in football." The President laughed and then Oklahoma cast its vote unanimously for Reagan and Harlow said, "At least you are right on the football."

The President said something about, "They might change that. They didn't last fall." Texas, when it called itself a humble State, the President laughed. When the member of the Virginia delegation called for a poll, the President turned to Marsh and said, "Whose side is he on?" Marsh replied, "He is against us and it is probably because of this Sprinkle thing."

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There was a lot of joking back and forth from the time we got into the room about a delegate named Eliza Sprinkle and Stu Spencer, or somebody, said, "Well, Eliza Sprinkle is finally going to vote in public." She is an 80-year-old delegate from the NiNth District of Virginia. She had been the last uncommitted hold-out in Virginia. She is the oldest delegate at the Convention. She finally stood up and when they called her name, she just said, "Governor Reagan."

There was a lady in the Virginia delegation, Virginia Lampe, if you were listening, who said she had to fight her way through the press to get to the microphone and indignantly walked up and cast her vote for President Ford, and he said, "Thata girl, Virginia," and laughed.

Also during the Virginia polling the President put down his tally sheet, stood up and stretched and walked around over to his desk to get some pipe tobacco. For most of the way through the polling he didn't make any attempt to log in the votes. He just set his tally sheet aside.

There was also one Virginia delegate who stood up and said he got no free meal from the White House. Therefore, he was voting for Governor Reagan. The President put his head back and laughed when the fellow said that. There was also a Virginia delegate named Marsh and when his name was announced and he announced his vote for Reagan, Ford shook his finger at Marsh and Marsh said he was the wrong one and said, "They would have to poll this delegation," speaking of Virginia.

At one point a delegate, whose name escapes me, got up and voted for Ford and the President said, "Atta boy, Paul." It was a phrase he used more than one time. That was Paul Johnson and a middle name.

When it got to West Virginia, Ford laughed when Arch Moore got up and it became apparent that that was the vote that was going to put him over, and then when Moore said, "Twenty votes for Ford," There was applause by the staff members. Kennerly was snapping pictures of Ford, asked him to turn around so he could catch him smiling, and get the flashing "Ford Wins" in the background. Ford said nothing.

He remained seated, he smiled and remained smiling while Kennerly snapped the pictures. The next quote I have is, "I have to watch my wife getting through all these kisses."

MORE



Then he turned back around to the TV screen and the photographers were standing behind him and they kept trying to get him to turn around and he said, "I have to see my wife getting all these kisses." He turned back around and Sonny Bono was apparently laying one on Betty about that time and he turned around and said, "Is that Sonny Bono?"

Then the President said, "I hope nobody demands a recount." Let me throw in one thing here. Dr. Lukash was in the room from the beginning, but he was sitting over at a conference table at the far end having a snack or something. It wasn't until West Virginia came up that he wandered over and joined the President to watch him go over the top.

Don Penny and a lot of people were shaking hands and one thing and another after he went over the top. Penny came in and shook hands and Ford said, "Well, I guess we don't have to change the speech." We got a look at the tally sheet he was working with during the thing; the total he was working against was 1179.

After several minutes, when they were taking pictures, the President did shake hands, stood and shook hands around the room with his aides that were there. The quote I got when he turned to Spencer, he said, "Stu, it has been long and tough. It was great." He also said, "Poor Wisconsin and Wyoming," referring to the two States who just missed out putting him over the top.

His own tally by the way, was 1179, the sheet he was working from. He smiled and very definitively reached over and ticked off West Virginia on his tally sheet.

Dick Cheney said there would be two briefings Thursday and Friday. On Thursday, Ed Schmultz of the Counsel's Office, and perhaps one or two others, would give a step-by-step briefing on the Vice Presidential selection. The briefing will be at mid-afternoon. On Friday, Stu Spencer will brief in the campaign before the President's party leaves for Vail.

-- Rudy Abrahamson, L. A. Times  
John Mashek, U.S. News & World  
Report  
Strobe Talbott, Time  
Tom DeFrank, Newsweek  
Charles Gibson, ABC



August 19, 1976

Pool Report -- President's Meeting with Governor Reagan  
at the Alameda Plaza Hotel

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It is about three miles to the Alameda Plaza. Nothing eventful. We went around to a court at the Alameda Plaza, the cars. They went into the elevator lobby, went into the lobby where we were blocked and we spent about five minutes in the lobby.

Originally, Doug Blazer said that Reagan was going to meet the President at the curbside. That was changed quite abruptly. I said Reagan would not come down, and he didn't.

Blazer later later reported that Lyn Nofziger met the President at the door and was shaking hands with him. In the lobby, there was a crowd of people, among whom were perhaps 20 Reagan -- pro-Reagan -- kids who were yelling things like "Right in, Reagan," "No VP," "Four more months," and "Nobody but Reagan." Doug Blazer said the meeting was held on the tenth floor; Cheney and Nessen were not in the meeting; that Reagan's family was present, at least part of the time.

From the time Ford hit the elevator going up until he came out of the elevator coming down was 25 minutes. How long the meeting was I do not know. Then, he had the press conference you saw.

That was really all that happened except somebody from Conservative Digest was hustled through the lobby by the Kansas City Police.

Mort Kondracke - Chicago Sun Times  
Muriel Dobbin - Baltimore Sun