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PERCY AND THE HELICOPTER

Q. Is it true, as Jack Anderson said, that the White House provided a helicopter for Senator Percy so he could make a vote, catch and flight and go off skiing?

A. Here is what I know about the matter: The Senate Republican Leadership requested that we provide the helicopter for Senator Percy. I am not aware if they stated whether he was going skiing or not. The White House has traditionally honored the requests from both sides of the aisle .

The Percy Flight was from the Pentagon Pad to Dulles and return. The length of the flight was 28 minutes. The cost was \$127.

(FYI: The vote was on a veto override and Senator Percy voted against the President.)

Q. Is it true that Percy offered to pay for the flight and the White House refused?

A. I will have to check.

(FYI ONLY: The offer was made. The WH turned it down because it was set a precedent.)