

Pool Pool — 11 Aug 74

The president's motorcade departed the White House at 7:08 ~~pm~~. Several hundred people had gathered near the southwest gate to watch the president pass, many armed with instamatics.

Arrived at his home at 7:23. Another group of about 100 ~~was~~ ^{was} at the end of his block. According to the Alexandria Police sergeant, ^{Out Front} the group was larger than usual, "just the sunday special". Mr Ford waved to the crowd. The crowd waved to mr ford.

7:32. We were ushered into the back yard by the side entrance and moments later the President came out the back door, clad in a maroon robe and dark

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7:34 Disrobing with a smile, President ford said "this isn't a burlesque, you know" and while five stillmen snapped, two cinematographers rolled, and a radio man turned on his recorder, the president dived in.

Laps 1-6....slow crawl

Laps 7-13....slow breststroke

Lap 13backstroke

Laps 14-16....slow crawl

(several laps ended with an underwater kick turn)

At the end of lap 16, the president started to push himself up over the side settled back, said "O.K" so it sounded like (oooof) and came out of the water. As he came over the side he said jokingly "no pictures getting out of

Dave Kennerly, who has just been named the official White House Photographer. Mr Ford was slightly out of breath.

There was some banter in which the president said he would never turn the pressroom back into a pool. It was suggested that congress might let him have a new pool of his own, but he said he didn't think he would ask.

He observed, "swimming twice a day has been a major asset slimming down and keeping muscle tone & good."

The pool, mr ford told us, is 40 feet long, and he says he swims twice a day...a total of about 35 to 40 laps.

The whole good humored, pleasant thing lasted about 15 minutes, after which President Ford went inside, and we went home.