

POOL REPORT

The President left the South Lawn at 6:22 pm and arrived at his home in Alexandria at 6:36 pm after an uneventful drive. Neighbors lined the streets as he arrived. He got out of his limousine, and said to reporters: "Hi. How are you tonight?", then went inside. He was reported to have taken a swim before dressing for the address.

The President left home at 8:28 pm, wearing blue suit and blue and red tie, with Mrs. Ford, in a bright yellow suit. They arrived at the House side of the Capitol at 8:45 pm and went to the holding room, in the Speaker's office.

The speech was over at about 9:40 pm and the President left the House side at 9:56 pm for home, arriving after an uneventful drive about 10:20 pm. He stopped with Mrs. Ford and answered a few questions on the front path. Asked how he thought the speech went, he said: "I'm not the best judge. I was pleased with the fine, warm reception from my former colleagues in the House...I hope that it lays the foundation for the kind of cooperation I think is essential to get the job done that I think is necessary." Asked about the humor in the speech and reaction, he said: "I'm not as dull as some people think. I enjoy a good joke, and I had a lot of fun giving it. It had a lot of good lines." Asked which he like best, he laughed and said, "I don't want a honeymoon, I want a good marriage," Asked how long he thought the marriage would last, he said, "I hope there's no divorce."

He said he apologized to Speaker Albert for his remark about voting for worthy projects in Michigan and for boondoggles in Oklahoma.

He said the Cost of Living Council Bill was one area where quick action was possible. "Nixon was for it, I'm for it, and it should be easy to get through Congress by August 23."

He was pleased Julie and David Eisenhower were there; the Fords had invited them, and also Mamie Eisenhower. Mrs. Ford said Mrs. Eisenhower could not come, at doctor's orders, but she sent a note.

The President said it was a strange feeling for him to be standing in the House as President and he was "overwhelmed" by the warm reception.

Joining Ford at home were: Mr. and Mrs. William Seidman, Mr. Jack Stiles, Mr. and Mrs. William Whyte, Mr. Rod Markley, Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Hartmann, Mr. and Mrs. John Byrnes, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Laird, Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Harlow, Mrs. Marba Perrott, Colonel Ric Sardo, Mrs. Nancy Howe, Ms. Ginger Lipscomb, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Buchen, Mr. Jack Marsh, General and Mrs. Alexander Haig, and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Secchia.