

POOL REPORT 8/23/74

At about 8:30 a.m. EDT, President Ford walked out of his Oval Office, accompanied by Gen. Haig, to greet about 100 4-H Club members who were in the Rose Garden. We were told the youngsters were taking a White House tour.~~xxx~~

As Ford walked across the dewy grass, the kids snapped away with their instamatics and applauded. He asked how many were from Colorado, and about a half-dozen raised their hands. He asked how many were from Michigan, and the rest of the group cheered. Ford observed that he grew up in Michigan but ~~skipped out in Colorado~~ "but we skip out in Colorado."

This, Ford said, was "the first group I've had the opportunity to greet here" in the Rose Garden. "It is a first for me, and I guess this is a first for you."

He said the 4-H organization is "one of the very, very best."

"In a very few years, all of you will be running this country so you had better learn how to run it better," he said. He said he was sure they would benefit from their experience in seeing the White House and Congress. Then he turned and walked back into the Oval Office with Haig.

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Helen Thomas, UPI
Gaylord Shaw, AP