

October 7, 1974

**PRESIDENT FORD AT PATRONS RECEPTION AT RAMADA INN  
AND ARRIVAL AT UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**

When Ford arrived at the Ramada Inn, there were about 150 protesters and onlookers, apparently most of them students from the University of Vermont. The motel sign had been changed to read "Welcome President Dorf". There was considerable booing and shouts of "go home", "speak to the people", and "no pardon". The protesters ran to get close to Ford, but didn't attempt to obstruct him. Ford went inside without incident and reemerged to talk through an outdoor courtyard to get to a reception for Republicans. Another 50 to 100 protesters were chanting "no pardon" and Ford must have heard them as he walked with Mrs. Prouty on his left side and Senator Aiken on his right. There were no incidents.

The reception was uneventful, Ford was presented a ~~desk~~ set of gray Vermont granite featuring the Presidential Seal from representatives of the Barre Granite Co.

When he arrived at the University gymnasium, approximately 500 students were waiting along his path. The President was booed very loudly and there were shouts of "jail Nixon", "junk that Ford", and "no pardon". Signs included "Nail Nixon", "Pardon the innocent, not the powerful."

Ford and his party moved quickly alongside the protesters, but we aren't able to say whether he acknowledged them or spoke at all to them as he sometimes has:

Tom DeFrank saw a light-colored, baseball-sized object thrown from the crowd in Ford's general direction. The pool couldn't see whether the object came near Ford. The President's personal Secret Service agent said he saw nothing thrown at Ford, according to Larry Speakes.

In our view, the crowd was clearly unfriendly, and anti-Ford, but not violent in any way. We saw no effort by any of the students to challenge the security or jostle the President. In other words, the crowd was antagonistic, but reasonably orderly.

Peter Behr - Gannett News  
Tom DeFrank - Newsweek  
Phil Jones - CBS News