

October 24, 1974

POOL REPORT #3

Ford visited reception in Waldorf Room for Rep. Sam Young; official estimate was 300 people at \$50 per.

Before Ford arrived, Young was plugged by Senator Percy and Congressmen Anderson, McClory, Erlenborn, Crane and Michel. Michel, who heads the House Republican Campaign Committee, called Young's race "one of our more critical districts around the country." To kill time, waiting for Ford's arrival, Michel led the crowd in singing "The Illinois Loyalty Song," "Where oh where but in America," and "God Bless America."

When Ford entered, the crowd closed in around him, and it took him several minutes to work his way across the floor, shaking hands, etc. The Secret Service worked him to the wrong end of the room, and he had to reverse direction and plow through the mob again.

He made a strong pitch for Young's re-election, declaring that "I can assure you, from watching members come and go for 25 years like greyhound buses, that in Sam Young you have one of the very best." He said Young had a formidable opponent, who, if elected, "will not help in the way or direction we ought to go in the country." He urged everyone, in the next 12 days, to work twice as hard as they had been for Young. He was only there about seven minutes.

The President then went to a second reception, in the Beverly Room -- a United Republican Fund reception for head table and candidates. Smaller crowd, and President Ford shook hands for 15 minutes. No speech.

Al Otten
Wall Street Journal

#