

OCTOBER 29, 1974

POOL REPORT

Washington to Grand Rapids

Phil Buchen and Dean Burch were among the usual folks on the plane; Betty Ford didn't come.

Nothin unusual, except Ron reports that the President said of the press conference this morning, "I just love doing that sort of thing." He indicated to Ron would be more such press conferences in the future.

At airport, Democratic congressional candidate Richard VanderVeen was in reception line. Opponent Paul Goebel, Jr., standing behind him, got in first to shake hands with Ford. Ford told VanderVeen: "Hi, Dick. It was good of you to come."

Along the fence, Ford walked through mud and wet grass, shaking hands, greeting old friends, seeing familiar faces. "Hi there," he said to one man. "Tell Joe I said hello." He stopped once at intersection near airport to shake hands and as his car entered downtown section, he removed bubble top and sat up on back of car.

Saul Friedman - Knight