

Pool Report, Air Force One, Andrews AFB to Martinique,
12/14/74

Nessen reports that the President was seen off at the White House by about 30 people, including Sevilla-Sacasa and Francois de La Gorce, the minister of the French Embassy. ~~Some~~ Others were Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. ~~Butz~~ Butz, ~~the~~ HUD Secretary James Lynn, UN Ambassador John Scali, Republican National Chairman Mary Louise Smith.

The President emerged from the diplomatic entrance (south portico) and shook hands all around. Mrs. Ford waved farewell from the balcony. The President briefly walked backward, ~~walking with both~~ before boarding the helicopter.

Air Force One lifted off at 11.43. The pool was joined quickly by a senior American official, the one who ~~is~~ often speaks on Henry Kissinger's plane, who gave an overview of the coming meetings on BACKGROUND. You have ~~some~~ available a transcript of the briefing and the q. and a. that followed.

Nessen issued copies of a Presidential statement on the passage of the trade bill, a set of schedule changes, a statement on the death of Walter Lippman. You have these in hand.

The pool also had in hand briefly the texts of toasts for tonight and tomorrow night. ~~Some~~ Nessen withdrew them, however, after it was discovered, ~~that~~ he said, that they had not been reviewed by the ~~President~~ President. They had been done at a lower level, he explained, and he had assumed mistakenly that they had been approved. The senior pooler, Miss Thomas, also discovered that the headings had been reversed.

Nessen said sadly he had hoped the staff performance on this trip would be better than that during the East Asian trip, but things weren't going too well for starters.

Angelo
Fulson
Trewhitt