

DECEMBER 26, 1974

POOL REPORT
Thursday Afternoon

The President came whizzing down the slope at 1:52 p. m. He was moving fast and he headed right for a group of spectators and newsmen gathered behind a rope at Gondola No. 1. Just before running into the spectators, he executed a snappy quarter-turn to avoid them and said in a resonant voice, "Whee." He was smiling happily.

Someone in the crowd asked him how the morning's skiing went, and Mr. Ford replied: "Oh, I fell down a couple of times today, but it got better toward the end."

A few moments later, in reply to an inaudible question or remark, he said: "It was nice up there, it really was."

Then he volunteered that "we'll have a bunch of high-powered moguls out heretomorrow, so I won't be able to ski."

Someone I didn't recognize asked the President whether he had been in touch with Richard Helms, the former director of the CIA. Mr. Ford was turning away at that point and I didn't catch his answer, but it appeared to be negative. He shook his head and made a motion with his hand that seemed strongly negative.

Then, accompanied by the Secret Service agents, he shouldered his skis and walked off toward the Bass house a few yards away.

Deakin