

POOL REPORT--HOUSTON TO TOPEKA--FEB. 11, 1975

The President came down to the lobby of the Shamrock Hilton at 7:47 a.m. on his way to the breakfast meeting with 65 editors and broadcasters from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi. He shook hands with persons in a small crowd in the lobby, saying "real nice to see you" and other small pleasantries. He shook hands with an elderly man in a wheelchair, Leonard C. Ward, who is 102 years old and is said to be the oldest living republican in Harris County (Houston).

Then Ford went into the media breakfast, which was closed to the press. Nessén said later that the President spoke for about ten minutes and then answered questions for about 20 minutes. Nessén said the Q&A contained "nothing new". He said there were no critical questions and that most of the questions dealt with the energy situation.

The motorcade to Ellington AFB was uneventful. Before boarding AF 1, The President shook hands with each of two dozen policemen in his motorcycle escort per his custom.

The flight to Forbes AFB near Topeka was uneventful. Ford did not come to talk with reporters. He worked in his cabin, according to Nessén, with Dick Cheney and Alan Greenspan; going over papers with Cheney.

Nessén came back at one point and chatted on non-substantive matters. He handed out biographical notes of the midwestern governors with whom Ford will be conferring in Topeka and also gave the pool a background sheet on the closing of Forbes AFB outlining how Topeka officials plan convert the base to civilian use. The press office will have copies of the data available at the press room in Topeka.

Bushen says that there is a correction to the Topeka advance text on page two, line two, paragraph six. The figure should be \$360 million, not a quarter of a billion dollars.

Nessén said the midwestern governors will not come to the Ramada Inn after the meeting with Ford. Those interested will have to buttonhole the governors outside the governor's mansion.

Deakin/Delrank