

FEBRUARY 11, 1975

POOL REPORT

STATE CAPITOL TO GOVERNOR'S MANSION

The Presidential motorcade left the Kansas capitol at 12:36 p.m. A crowd of several hundred was outside when he left.

There were knots of several dozen people along the 7-mile motorcade route to the mansion on the northwest edge of Topeka. At the entranceway to the 3-story, 12-room, English-style mansion, there was a crowd of around 100 to greet Ford. All appeared friendly, except for two men carrying signs; one said, "Stop bankrolling Thi," the other, "Get out of 'Nam."

The Governor's mansion is on a hill overlooking a 244 acre estate. To the rear is the Kansas River. It was built in 1928 by the editor of the Topeka State Journal, Frank MacLennan, a Scotsman, and deeded to the State by his widow in 1962.

Mrs. Robert Bennett, Kansas First Lady, supervised the luncheon for the President and the governors. She provided the menu, which consisted of beef tenderloin with bernaise sauce, 24-hour vegetable salad, french bread with garlic butter, and rose wine. Dessert was english truffle and coffee.

The rose wine and other mixed drinks served at the reception and luncheon were the first served in the mansion. The Kansas legislature abolished the law, effective yesterday, in honor of the Presidential visit. Previously, liquor was banned on state owned property.

The governors and Ford ate in a small, sparsely furnished dining room. Ford's aides were Greenspan, Zarb, Falk, O'Neill, and Neasen. The table was covered with a red tablecloth with blue place settings. Decorations were miniature U. S. and state flags.

When the photo pool was whisked through, the conversation centered on the problems of getting passage of liquor by the drink law and the equal rights amendment.

Ford arrived at 1:50 p.m., departed in the snow at 3:50 p.m. Ford worked a crowd of 200 as he left the mansion.

Jim Wiegart
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