

April 3, 1975

**POOL REPORT - The President's Walk from the Hotel to the Press Conference and Back.**

About 5,000 people were lining the sidewalks outside the hotel and the courtyard outside the convention center, according to San Diego Police Sgt. R. A. Davis. On his walk from the hotel to the press conference, the crowd was by and large friendly, although there were some dissenters (some of them were booing, and their sound was amplified by the echo of the courtyard giving an appearance of larger numbers of demonstrators than appeared to actually be there.) On the return trip, virtually everyone the President came near was friendly.

Both coming and going, Ford worked the crowd -- taking care to shake hands on both sides of the street and all around the perimeter of the courtyard outside. He left the hotel at 11:47 a.m. and there were a number of signs held in his line of vision: "End All Aid for Indochina," "Give Food, Not Guns," and one rather lengthy dandy, "Jerry Ford is like a condom. He gives you a false sense of security while you're being screwed." There was also someone dressed as a big red rooster from a rock radio station here in town with the call letters KGB.

On the way back to the hotel after the press conference, Ford again did the handshake routine for a number of hearty souls (perhaps 1000) who had waited. Ford told Helen Thomas: "I'm disappointed I wasn't asked about the Bakersfield Olympics."

A number of fans shouted encouraging things his way, including the Aztec Young Republicans from San Diego State. Several offered health care tips: "Keep doing your exercises, Mr. President, we like having a fit President." Also: "You better get a hat, Mr. President, you'll burn yourself." To which Ford replied, "If I had more hair, I wouldn't have to." He disappeared into the hotel after 10 minutes of handshaking.

Marty Schram  
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