

The presidential caravan left the white house on schedule and enroute to the theater, the president and mrs ford dropped in on a reception at the university club. ~~xxxx~~ The affair, your ppolers were told, was given by Sen. Carl Curtis for Sen. Clif Hansen. Press Asst. Bill Roberts informed us that 17 members of the senate were also present.

The president stayed about 20 minutes and then went to the theater where the curtain was being held *for him*,

Mr. Ford sat on the front row, Margaret Truman Daniel to his right, ~~xxxx~~ Mrs. Ford to his left; others on the front row included Mr. Daniel, Rogers Morton, Carl Albert. (Press office has a complete list.) The president laughed aloud several times during the play and seemed in good spirits. The crowd included various white house aides-- Nessen, Seidman and Buchen noted among others. Also spotted in the crowd were Harry Vaughan, former treasury secretary John Snyder and Averell Harriman. It was a black tie event.

After the performance, the president, mrs ford, morton and mrs daniel came to the stage where they joined actor james whitmore. Mr. Ford spoke briefly as follows: "Everybody here knows I've known and adm. Harry Truman for 25 years bu tonite I learned some new things about hi

all of them just increased my admiration for him. In reference to Whitmore, the president said, "I've known this fellow for a number of years. He was once a blocking back who almost went to Michigan but passed it up to go to Yale.

The president was heard to tell Whitmore, "...wonderful performance. as he left the stage.

The trip back was uneventful and ~~xxxxxx~~ the fords returned to the white house on schedule. During the intermission, the president glanced up at the box where Lincoln was shot and could be seen chatting ~~Max~~ with Mrs. Daniel about ~~xxxxxxx~~ but we didn't hear what was said.

--schieffer.