

April 18, 1975

POOL REPORT - Washington to Concord, New Hampshire - Air Force One

Wheels up at Andrews at 10:38.

The President was accompanied by Bill Greener and Ron Nessen. En route Nessen provided entertainment by reading from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It was also disclosed that the "third lantern" is a symbol of the beginning of the country's third century, and a signal that the country still holds to the principles that carried it through the first two centuries.

The President regards tonight's affair at the Old North Church as the kick-off of the Bicentennial Celebration.

Before departing for Andrews, the President met with the Ambassador to East Germany, John Sherman Cooper. Secretary Kissinger sat in on the meeting. Among the matters discussed was an evaluation of U.S. relations with East Germany since Cooper arrived there last Fall.

Nessen said the trip to New Hampshire and Massachusetts is not a political trip. In general comments about the President's appearance in New Hampshire Nessen referred the pool back to Mr. Ford's interview with the LA Times, and the President's comment that the Republican party is big enough for all factions. Nessen said that "success in politics depends on adding people to the party, " and he added " you are not going to have this President reading people out of the party on ideological grounds. "

William Loeb of the Manchester Union-Leader was invited to the Media Reception, but will not be there. Nessen indicated that Loeb was out of town. He said Loeb was sending a representative. There was an editorial in this morning's Union-Leader that Nessen described as milder than usual. The President read it and was NOT disturbed. He saw nothing troublesome about it.

Ford is disappointed about the Senate Armed Services Committee rejection of more military aid to South Vietnam. But he doesn't consider this the final word.

Your Poolers

Norton - Ward - Farney

#

#

#