

July 3, 1975

POOL REPORT: Air Force One, Andrews Air Force Base to Cincinnati

Wheels up at 10:52 a.m. Smooth flight over West Virginia.

Nessen came back and made several announcements:

The cost of the transportation for this trip -- all transportation, including helicopters to and from the White House -- being paid by the Republican National Committee. This is the same procedure as was used in last fall's campaigning. Since the proceeds of the Cleveland event are going for the party, the RNC will pay the cost of the transportation.

Later, a proportional formula will be worked out for use when Ford travels as President, as head of the party and as a candidate for President. But until the formula is worked out, the National Committee is paying the whole freight.

Unemployment figure of 8.6 for June, released today.

"We believe it has not changed from the 9.2 in May to 8.6 in June," Nessen said. "The difference in figures is caused by a statistical abnormality which distorted both the May and June figures. May was too high and June was too low.

"In reality, if we take the 8.6 and 9.2 figure and average them, we get 8.9, and we believe that average is what it actually was in May and June.

"The April figure also was 8.9. It is not accurate to say that the June figure represents a downward trend in unemployment.

"We are pleased that the unemployment rate has stopped rising and essentially is steady. Two points should be remembered:

- we expect that the July figure will be higher than 8.6.
- in the fall, there is going to be a similar statistical abnormality (when youngsters go back to school and off the job market) and there will be the appearance of an increase, which won't really happen."

The President signed two bills before leaving the White House.

- H. R. 6387, a 90-day extension of the Federal Insecticide Authority from July 1 to September 30. Authorizes appropriation of \$11,967,000.
- H. R. 37, the Standard Reference Data Act appropriation of \$2.8 million for FY '76; \$750,000 for transition period; \$3 million for FY 77 and 78.

Representative Charles Whalen (R-Ohio) also came back. He was along for the ride, he said, having returned last night after spending six days in Cuba. He is a member of the International Relations Committee and the International Trade and Commerce Subcommittee, and 2-1/2 years ago, he headed a task force of Republicans who recommended formalizing relations with Cuba.

He spent four hours with Fidel, including a drive down the main street of Havana and added:

"We will have a resumption of relations reasonably soon. It is entirely possible that the process can begin by the end of the summer." His subcommittee is now looking into it.

Whalen said the critical point will come when the CAS meets in Costa Rica and considers two resolutions, One would change the CAS charter to permit imposing or lifting sanctions by majority vote rather than 2/3 vote. Other is a resolution permitting each nation to go its own way on sanctions.

The key, Whalen said, will be the way the United States votes.

"I discussed with Castro the possibility of informal, or even private relations," Whalen said. "We are completely out of step with the rest of the hemisphere. We are regarded and portrayed as the bully."

In all his talks with Castro, Whalen said repeatedly as he was asked over and over, the subject of assassination never came up from either man -- it just didn't come up, he said.

"It never came up, it was never discussed," he said. "And I never brought up the matter of Cuban political prisoners."

He called Castro "an appealing guy, relaxed and not flamboyant, which I had expected."

Whalen said Castro told him: "We just cannot afford to have wars or even differences -- we have to live together even if our economic and governmental systems are different."

Whalen said U.S. can help Castro with agricultural products -- corn and rice and those products which can be converted to industrial use -- and estimated 70 percent of the people in U.S. want resumption of relations.

On board were Senator Taft and Representatives Clancy, Brown, Whalen, and Gradison of Ohio and Breckenridge of Kentucky. The President came back to the lounge for about 10 minutes to talk with them.

Kohler/Newhouse