

peel report--white house to quality inn/pentagon--july 17, 1975

the president's motorcade left a couple of minutes late via the southwest gate. upon arrival at the hotel he went up one flight of ~~F~~ stairs

to the board meeting of SER-Jobs for progress inc, a social services organization to provide help/jobs for spanish-speaking ~~americans~~ americans. (SER is the spanish verb "to be.")

Ford sat in the center of a U-shaped head table and spoke extemporaneously for about five minutes while sitting. There were about 75 participants.

Ford said he hoped in the months ahead to be able to do something "affirmatively and effective~~N~~" for ~~xxxx~~ unemployed spanish-americans. He then repeated his familiar theme about the need for general economic recovery and warned of the dangers of inflation. He said it was necessary for a two-track system of both whipping inflation and providing greater employment opportunities.

In response to the only question, ford sidestepped the question of whether he favored an expansion of the voting rights act for spanish-americans by saying "it might be better, quicker and more certain" if VRA were made effective in all ~~50~~ 50 states instead of the southern states or several northern states as some congressmen propose.

Then ford went to a nearby room to speak for about two minutes with members of the National League of Families and VIVA, two POW/MIA groups in town for NLF's sixth annual convention. Ford was warmly received and pledged that "despite the overwhelming odds against us," that "I can assure you your government will maximize its efforts despite the serious ~~obstacles~~ problems that we have" (in getting information on MIAs). as he left, the 75 people in the room sang "God Bless America." The president shook a few hands in the lobby, got a kiss from the ^{female} companion of the hotel's owner, and got back in his limousine, arriving back at the white house at 2:45 p.m.

defrank/brokaw