

Travel Pool to Lee Mansion in Arlington

Presidential motorcade departed White House at 2:05pm and proceeded uneventfully to the Lee Mansion. The President wore a light blue cord suit, dark blue tie, white shirt. Upon arrival, Ford ~~was~~centered the Mansion, exiting immediately to the steps overlooking the city. He seated himself at an 18th century writing desk placed there for him at the foot of the steps. He read prepared remarks from index cards explaining the background of how, thru human error or oversight, Robert E. Lee had never been restored officially to U.S. citizenship. It took about 4 minutes.

After signing the Senate resolution which restored Lee's rights as an American citizen, Ford gave one pen to Robert E. Lee V, a blond boy of approximately 11 years of age. Another pen went to Harry Byrd. Young Lee then asked the President to sign his autograph book, which he did.

Ford then moved out to the crowd of onlookers, probably 600 or 800 strong, and proceeded to diligently "work the fence." The crowd was composed largely of women and children who were cordoned off behind light ropes. This exercise took more than 20 minutes. Perspiring slightly in the blazing sun, Ford shook every 1 he could reach using the two-arm method. The crowd was responsive as the President said "Nice to see you, How are You?, It's good to be back, Thank you, that's very nice to one man who said he was praying for him. General chit-chat, nothing momentous or substantive appeared to be the tenor.

As he circled the Mansion, greeting people, Ford was asked to pose for a photo with a group of Girl Scouts (from Canfield, Ohio). When he arrived back at the front of the house where cars were waiting, Ford stood chatting with Mill Godwin and other official guests while he waited for the photo to be set up. The girls were rounded up, Ford posed, the photo was taken. But just as he was to enter the limo, another cordoned-off group shouted to him, "Hey Mr. President over here, over here!" Ford walked over, about 100 feet, and duly worked that fence. The cars were moved over to where he was shaking hands, he climbed in, proceeded back to the White House, without alarms and excursions, arriving here at 2:52 p

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