

POOL REPORT--AIR FORCE ONE--ANDREWS AFB @ TO FORT SMITH--AUGUST 10, 1975

wheels up at 12:50 p.m. Mrs. Ford, wearing a light green dress, waved to crowd with the president at top of steps.

Nessen ~~was~~ came back to say Ford would be speaking from notes-- and thus no text--and to provide some factual data about the Saint Edward's Mercy Medical Center and the Fort Chaffee refugee center.

He said that since Chaffee opened, 21,000 refugees have passed through and found sponsors and 21,500 remain there awaiting sponsors. At all four refugee centers including Chaffee, 51,000 have found sponsors while 54,000 are still waiting plus 4,800 in Guam. Refugees are now living in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Arkansas, 33rd in population, stands 18th in numbers of refugees taken in.

Democratic Governor David Pryor has expressed special interest in the refugee program. Ford appreciates this and called him early on to express his gratitude.

~~Handwritten scribble~~ About 280 refugees are being processed out each day at Chaffee, the largest of the centers and the equivalent of the eleventh largest city in Arkansas due to the refugee population. Nine volunteer religious and social organizations are assisting at Chaffee--everyone from the Mormon Church to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Service. There are 236 barracks; 16 buildings are set aside ~~for~~ for schools. There are 7,000 kids in school and 234 classes each day. The refugees have organized, held barracks elections and elected a mayor and various other barrack leaders and committee chairmen. Many refugees are still using the skills brought with them--medical specialists, secretaries, interpreters, etcetera.

Tentative closing times for these camps: Eglin AFB, Fla., Sept. 1 (no heat); Camp Pendleton, Cal., Oct. 15 (no heat); Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Oct. 15; Chaffee, sometime in December. ~~(camp winterized)~~
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Ford is expected to meet with various leaders and representatives of the camp while at Chaffee.

As for the medical center, Ford was invited last May by Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt. It was founded in 1905 by the Sisters of Mercy. The hospital's emphasis is on automation, centralization and privacy. Automation is supposed to cut the staff 15 to 20 per cent and save \$250,000 a year. Centralization techniques ~~save~~ increase nursing time with patients 108 per cent with 14 per cent fewer nurses. All patients have single rooms. The medical center is built on 22-bed modules which will also be the pattern for small satellite facilities for outlying areas.

After visiting Chaffee, Ford will meet with About 30 Arkansas GOPers at the Sheraton Inn's Butterfield One room. Included will be A. Lynn Lowe, state chairman, the GOP national committeeman and woman, etcetera. Lowe requested the meeting because, says Nessen, he claims Ford has a lot of good friends in Arkansas.

After the Ford-~~Rockefeller~~ Rockefeller dinner last night, the six kids (including Jack Ford) went swimming, some in their underwear. ~~Will~~ Nessen says he plans to brief each day at 10:00 a.m. and post at five p.m. He expects little the first week: golf probably Tuesday, with travel pools for social events.