

August 11, 1975

POOL REPORT

I have got news for you. So much for pool coverage. When we got there, there were already four local cameras and three stills waiting to film the President's first tee. When he teed off, we had plenty of video tape and sound of it.

Beginning back at the house, he left the house, got into his baggage car they are using out here. That was about five minutes after we got there. I didn't note on my watch exactly what time it was. Maybe Dick Lerner got it or the AP pool. Nobody got it.

He drove over. It is about a two-minute drive to the golf course. He wore a blue knit tee shirt, white golf cap, dark blue plaid slacks and brownish shoes. He rode by himself in the car, pipe in teeth, waved to a very small crowd of youngsters at the end of his driveway. He went inside the Vail Golf Course Club House.

It is a low kind of pumpkin-colored structure where he met with Bob Wolfe. He is the Vail Golf Course pro. They came out and worked on the practice tees and they practice putting green for about ten minutes. The first five of the President's six practice putts did not go in.

They chatted about their clubs. Wolfe gave him some instructions on the practice tees and later on the putting green talked to the President about his putter, and the two of them stood and examined it for a minute.

The President obviously wanted to talk, so he came down to the press pen, which had been set up and filled with reporters and cameras. He said good morning and how are you. We have tape of this the radio is getting right now.

The President walked over to the reporters and said good morning, how are you all, a friendly salute and a bright producer said, "What do you think of this morning's court decision on the oil tariff?" President Ford said the following: "We are analyzing, of course, the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals. I won't know until later this afternoon what the Department of Justice and what my White House counsel will recommend, but sometime late this afternoon I can give you a decision."

I asked if he wasn't considering taking the \$2.00 a barrel tariff off anyway when the controls lapsed. His answer was, "That, of course, is an option that does exist, and I have indicated on several occasions I had a number of administrative options. That is in the group we will have to look at if and when we decontrol, which we will probably do."

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He was backing away from the microphones and cameras at that point, and so the sound gets a little fuzzy, but those are the quotes. I may have mixed up a tense in there on "That, of course, is an option." The radio engineers have a tape and we can double-check it.

President Ford was the first to tee off. Next came Alan Greenspan, who hit a good clean drive down the fairway. President Ford laughed and told his economic adviser, "I see you haven't been studying those charts all the time." Lukash teed off after Greenspan, and then Bob Wolfe.

He took a golf cart down the fairway. He did not walk, as he usually does. He seemed in good spirits and the sun was shining and there were little patches of snow up on the mountain and all the colorful things.

As far as I know, he is going to play all 18 holes. For those of you who are interested, the course is wide open. You drive right past it on the main highway. If you want to go down and see him on the 18th tee, there isn't a soul in the world who can stop you. He had two agents riding in a cart behind him and presumably agents farther up the course.

Security didn't seem tight. Many spectators were allowed to wander around closer to the President than your pool was allowed to wander around. Several children shouted hello, Mr. President. Cars drove by and waved, but he didn't seem to pay much attention to them.

Ann Compton-ABC

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