

Q&A with local television representatives--Twin Cities International Airport--August 19, 1975

Q: (unintelligible)

A: All I can say is I have had a wonderfully warm reception and enjoyed the opportunity of seeing some old friends. Meeting of course with the legion and a good many other fine citizens-- ~~the~~ from the state of Minnesota. I enjoy people. I enjoy what I have seen and it's just nice to be here. I kinda hate to leave.

Q: You are off to Peoria now?

A: We're going to Peoria. First we go to Pekin, Illinois to dedicate the library of former senator Dirksen who was a very close and very dear friend of mine and he and I were the minority leaders in the house and senate together, back about ten years ago. So I feel very strongly that I wanted to participate in that particular dedication...

Q: (on his trip to Minnesota).

A: The people could not have been friendlier and I hope and trust that when I come back sometime in 1976 that they'll feel the same way about me.

Q: Mr. President are you considering any executive action to force the longshoremens to ship grain to the Soviet Union?

A: When I get back to the desk, I'll have an opportunity to talk with secretary dunlop and others ~~who~~ who have been keeping a very close watch on the situation. I certainly hope that it'll be possible to find a way to make sure that the grain that's been contracted for and that which will be ~~pur~~chased in the future can be shipped. I think that is in the best interests of the american farmer. I think it's in the best interest of the American consumer and I think it's in the best interest of the labor movement, to permit the shipment of this wonderful commodity that we produce in the united states... which is helpful to us in our desire to help less well-off people, to help us in our carrying out of a responsible foreign policy. I think it would be tragic and unfortunate if there isn't some way that can be found to solve the problems created by this embargo that appears to be enforced <sup>power</sup> against the shipment of grain.

Q: (relates to whether ford has ~~power~~ to force longshoremens to ship grain)

A: I would rather not get into the question of whether I can order anybody to do it. I hope we can, through negotiations, come to a conclusion that will be satisf ctory to everybody.

Mr. Nessen: Thank you very much, gentlemen.