

AUGUST 19, 1975

POOL REPORT #8

From Minneapolis Convention Center to Marriott
and Registry Hotel

As Ford shook hands with Legionnaires going out of the Hall, a brief poll of handshakers found six who volunteered the opinion that the speech was good and one who called it "the same old shit."

Motorcade to Marriott uneventful, Ford worked a crowd of 300 or more people in front of the entrance, including several Legion members who looked hung over, and evidently did hear the speech.

The feature of the arrival was Ford's meeting with the sire of Liberty, the family dog. Ford encountered Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lund, of nearby Hopkins, Minn., owners of the dog, whose name is "Bang" (formal name: "Honors Let 'em Have It") most obviously a fine stud. Ford shook hands with the dog, said that he was "proud" of Liberty and happy to have her. While this was going on a band was playing Sousa marches in a temporary bandshell in front of the hotel -- it's the first Philip Sousa Memorial Band -- while Secret Service agents drummed on the pool, and tried to get us out of ear-shot of the conversation between the President and the greeters.

Bill Greener advised, en route the short distance to the Registry Hotel, that Ford called before breakfast to express condolences to Democratic Rep. Robert Bergland of Roseau, Minn., whose 19-year-old son, Jon, was killed Sunday night in an auto accident. The funeral is today.

Outside the Registry Hotel, Ford shook hands with a small group of about 50 spectators and then, with the members of the Fort Snelling Fife and Drum Corps. It's not a military group; it's sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. The group was dressed in what appeared to be Revolutionary era regalia.

Ford gave a delighted greeting to Bill ("The Boomer") Brown, retired Minnesota Vikings fullback, as he entered the Hotel. He said: "We'll miss you on the gridiron. Maybe we can get you in the political arena." The Boomer did not commit himself to politics, but offered to play a game of golf with the President.

Jim Naughton
Howard Norton
Steve Bell

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