

August 19, 1975

POOL REPORT # 11**Dirksen Library and travel from Pekin to Peoria**

Your pool was ushered first into the "research center" of the library, which is on the second floor. There were tons of boxes of Dirksen papers piled neatly occupying about 1/3 of the space in this large room. There were also 37 filing cabinets -- one of which was entitled, "Patronage, 1969". All of the papers were stored in small square cardboard boxes, each one dated.

As the President came up the stairs and into the room, he was introduced to the architect of the building, Jack Hackler, who escorted him on his tour.

The President first sat at a desk and autographed a large photo of himself and the late Senator Dirksen, taken at one of the "Ev and Jerry Shows" in the Capitol building in Washington.

Before leaving the room the President told Mr. Hackler, "I hope sometime I can come down and relax and go through some of these papers". The President remarked that he had turned over all of his Congressional and Vice Presidential papers to the University of Michigan, and he added that probably for the sake of continuity he will do the same with his Presidential papers.

The President told his host that should the Dirksen Library need to have access to any of his (Ford's) papers, the people at the University of Michigan are "most cooperative" and would be glad to make microfilms or whatever. He said that he would intercede, if necessary.

The Presidential party then descended to the first floor, where the President inspected a room where larger-than-life-size blown up photographs of Dirksen from his childhood to his maturity were on display. At the entrance to the room was a large sign with a picture of Dirksen, reading, "The Honorable Mr. Marigold".

We were told that the President was to have received a gift putter from Mayor Carver of Pekin, but the crowd closed in and we did not see the presentation if indeed it did occur.

Before leaving the library, the President said a few dedicatory words in which he made formal pronouncement of the name of the institution, "The Everett McKinley Dirksen Congressional Leadership for Research Center" and then he remarked something to the effect that Ev never could say anything in less than 7 words.

The Chief of Police of Pekin estimated the crowd at the dedication ceremony at 33,000 -- which is 2,000 more than the total population of the city. Apparently the crowd at Pekin was swelled by people from Peoria because there was no one on the streets of Peoria when the Presidential motorcade arrived there after a completely uneventful trip.

Howard Norton
Don Fulsom
Aldo Beckman

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