

Before leaving Kalispell, Ford met for 20 minutes with 18 Montana Republicans---State Chairman, etc--in upstairs room of Glacier Int'l Airport. Nessen called it another "non-political political meeting." Meeting opened with "pep talk." (all quotes attributed to Ronald H. Nessen.) He said President ~~xxxx~~ said "We will ~~win~~ win in '76...We will win '76 if you work hard" etc. Need good Republican candidates at all levels. Then President went through quick review of own policies---energy, economy, inflation, etc. same old stuff. Also reviewed world situation with Montanans, Middle East, Salt, etc. Nothing new. Questions, according to Nessen were all local ones like--services for farmers, cattle prices. President ~~xxxx~~ had local Republicans in circle sitting all all around him. Coffee and cookies available but Ford did not indulge. On Libby Dam Speech--Nessen agreed it would be "fair to say" that Ford's insert was in response to Macdonald speech. It was "written up on plane" on way to Kalispell. Nessen said nothing Macdonald said was new policy. Did say that gradual phaseout of Canadian oil exports was still being decided by some body as to whether 1. it should go to zero. 2. timetable.

On Mike Mansfield---Nessen did not know if Mike talked personally to President about his intended plan to work out compromise and prevent a Ford veto on oil decontrol. Did agree that the Senator presented the President with a "confidential memo" on his recent trip to Portugal, the Middle East and the Far East. It is a "written report on the observations of his trip." Mansfield just has returned a day or two ago.

On Energy talks Ford-Macdonald---The two did talk, according to Nessen, at Libby Dam's Treaty Tower and throughout the ceremonies. "Intent Talk" as they departed.

On Flight--Ford, so says Nessen, worked on next three speeches, Yacht Club, Hardware, and Milwaukee White House Conference.

On Mrs. Ford--Nessen says she and Susan are going back to Washington on Thursday.

On President's stumbling at Libby Dam speech: Nessen says, "Everybody blows one now and then. "

On Democrats and Why President's day spent at invitation of Mansfield and Daley: "He's the President of all the people," said Nessen. Asked how come Governor Lamm of Colorado never in contact with Mr. Ford in two weeks, Nessen said he did not know but promised to check. "Snub?" Silence. Note: In Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Democratic Governors greeted Ford. In Iowa, a GOP Governor did so.

On Daley: Nessen said Chicago Mayor invited President for tonight's Yacht Club appearance. Nessen could provide no special reason.

Pete Kumpa --- Baltimore Sun