

August 23, 1975

Pool Report -- Chicago (Convention Center) to Milwaukee Pool # 9

Motorcade from the convention to the airport was routine.

About two hundred people were waiting to greet the President at O'Hare Airport, so he worked the fence. Then, as he turned to enter Air Force One he was surrounded by a group of Chicago reporters. He answered questions for about two or three minutes. (The audio pool got a tape of it.)

They asked him if he had talked to Mayor Daley about the cross-county expressway. The Mayor, he said, did speak to him about it. The president indicated that he wanted to find out where it stands and he wanted to know what the facts are, and didn't want to give a factual judgement until he had time to look into it.

Another question was on HUD sales and disposal of single family homes in Chicago. He said he told the Mayor he ~~was talking~~ talked about it last week in a meeting with Carla Hills. He said he would consult some more with her and see what the Federal government could do to cooperate with the City of Chicago.

What are you going to do about the abandoned homes, someone asked. He said he hoped HUD would hold off the sale of individual homes. He was asked if this was setting a new national policy. It's a very complicated question, he told the questioner, and he indicated he was not going to get into it until he had talked some more to Carla.

On the way to the airport, Nessen gave us the following:

1. He expects the President to broaden the paper-shuffling and bureaucracy theme. So far its been mostly about businessmen. You'll be hearing more about the average guy and his problems.
2. On the Chicago Tibb story about White House staff changes, Nessen said there was no hard deadline. The rough goal is the year-end to get down to 485, mostly by attrition. The staff is now in the area of 510 to 520. The Pres checked it this morning in a phone call to Rumsfeld. Cuts, he thought, would be mostly low-rank people.
3. On the veto: No date fixed. No vehicle has been decided. But he thinks the veto will come before the law expires on August 31.
4. The Kupcnet interview probably will be released for Labor Day mornings
5. On the subject of the alleged lack of new ideas in the Ford administration Nessen said there would be plenty of new ideas in the coming state-of-the-union speech.

Your faithful poolers Norton, Irwin, Van Dyke