

AUGUST 30, 1975

POOL REPORT #5--Theodore Green Airport to the Sheraton-Islander in Newport, R. I.

The President left the airport about 4:30 p.m. A crowd of about 1,500 lining the airport road came pretty near mobbing the President, as his motorcade slowed on leaving the airport grounds. When his car stopped, the President got out and the crowd broke the police line. Ford was caught up in the crush and was roughly handled although apparently not hurt. When he finally pushed his way back into the car, the local police formed a cordon to keep the crowd back. There was just not enough Secret Service men along to do the job in that kind of a crowd. The people did seem friendly however--almost too friendly.

The rest of the thirty-five minute ride to Newport was uneventful. There were large clusters of people along the motorcade route, especially at intersections. Many were waiving American flags, but we saw no hostile signs.

The largest crowd were at the entrance to East Greenwich, the approach to the Jamestown Bridge which crosses Narragansett Bay to Jamestown Island and at North Kingston and at the end of the Newport Bridge. The big surprise of the trip was waiting at the hotel. A large and friendly crowd around the circular driveway at the Sheraton-Islander was carrying a score or more of signs praising Betty Ford for her recent pronouncements on sex, marriage and things in general. Some of the signs: "Go Betty, Do Your Thing," "Jerry Played Football, but Betty Knows the Score," "Light the Way with ERA," "Put Honesty in the White House--Vote Betty Ford," "Thanks, Betty--Signed, Love ERA."

The President went clear around the circular driveway smiling and shaking hands and exchanging quips. As he entered the hotel the crowd outside broke into applause.

The hotel, which looks something like an abandoned old grain elevator from the outside, stands on a tiny island, connected to the mainland by a man-made causeway, its a multistory brick structure, modernistic in design, and very fancy inside.

Inside the lobby the President was greeted by another hundred people, but was soon whisked into an elevator and up to his room for a rest before his TV appearance and that is the last we saw of him.

This is Part I of Pool Report #5. More later--probably.

Norton/U. S. News and World Report
Weighart/N. Y. Daily News
Wilson/Providence Journal

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