

SEPTEMBER 12, 1975

POOL REPORT #1
AIR FORCE ONE - WASHINGTON TO ST. LOUIS

Wheels up 11:40 a.m., EDT. Nessen came back shortly after takeoff and chatted for a while. Refused to say whether Ford is wearing bulletproof vest on St. Louis-Kansas City-Dallas trip. "I can't say one way or the other on these questions about the bulletproof vest because it's a Secret Service policy not to discuss the protection of the President," Nessen said.

On AF One with President were Senator Stuart Symington (Dem.), Missouri, and Representative Gene Taylor (Rep.) of Sarcoxie, Mo., the only Republican in the Missouri Congressional delegation.

Symington said Ford invited him to come along after learning that Symington was going to St. Louis for speaking engagements Sunday and Monday.

Rep. Taylor chatted with pool. Said he made a 5,000-mile automobile tour of his Southwest Missouri district during the August recess (covered 60 or 70 towns) and found that "people think Jerry Ford is an honest man who has a handle on the job." Taylor predicted the GOP ticket will be Ford and Rockefeller and said they will carry Missouri, even if George Wallace runs on a third-party ticket.

Taylor called Rockefeller "an asset in the Ford administration." On another matter, he said the Kansas City, Mo. fundraising dinner is a sellout, with 500 tickets sold at \$100 each and 150 at \$250. That comes out at \$87,500.

On the flight from St. Louis to Kansas City, Nessen said, the President will be accompanied by Gov. and Mrs. Christopher S. Bond of Missouri, Missouri Attorney General John C. Danforth and Mrs. Danforth, and Rep. Taylor.

Staff people on AF One: John T. Calkins (Hartmann's deputy); Richard Cheney (Rumsfeld's deputy); Nessen; Jerry Jones, chief of the White House scheduling office; Terry O'Donnell, appointments secretary; Red Cavaney, chief advance man; David Kennerly; Robert Orben, speechwriter, and Rear Adm. William M. Lukash, presidential physician.

Jim Deakin
Bonnie Angelo
Neil Currie

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