

September 12, 1975

POOL REPORT # 4

Motorcade to St. Louis airport was uneventful though police radio carried a report that a "telephone threat on the President's life" had been received by the St. Charles (Mo.) police "at the Carson Road overpass," the last one before airport entrance. The overpass was empty and the motorcade went under it without incident.

Aboard AF 1, Nessen denied in a fencing session that any policy or public relations considerations had entered into Ford's scrapping his White House Conference text in St. Louis. "To you, it appears ominous, but to him, he just wanted to deliver three or four minute remarks off-the-cuff rather than read them," Nessen said. "It's not true," he said, that Ford thought better of the prepared remarks after seeing them.

Nessen also said "a lot of events" will take place in connection with next weekend's California trip, including speeches at Pepperdine College, Stanford University, World Affairs Council in San Francisco, plus T.V. interviews and editorial board meetings.

At the Kansas City Airport, Ford said, on the St. Louis text deletion: "I decided I had followed the script in various speeches and I decided I'd condense my remarks to allow people to ask more questions." Asked if he "felt the same way" (presumably, as in the text), he said, "I feel what I said was what I wanted to say. I wanted to give people an opportunity to ask questions."

MORT KONDRACKE - Chicago Sun Times
BARRIE DUNSMORE - ABC
RUDY ABRAMSON - Los Angeles Times

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