

Pool Report Wastover AFB to Boston Nov. 7

On arriving at the AFB from Springfield the President was presented with a hand-painted plate of a Revolutionary War Scene by Joseph Cotton, an official of the Wilbur Graham Commemorative project. The President was flanked by ~~Margaret Heckler and~~ ~~Congressmen~~

Congressmen Margaret Heckler and Silvio Conte, who is running his Mass. primary campaign.

At air base, Ford walked over to knot of local reporters for couple of minutes of questioning. On economy, he said it is getting "stronger and healthier," and anticipates diminishing unemployment rate in Rhode Island, Mass. and Michigan, among others.

--Would he consider a woman vicepresident? "Of course I would."

--He was asked if Monday's change meant that Kissinger might lose impact in national security affairs.

"Dr. Kissinger will continue to have great influence on overall strategy that we have on a world wide basis. The Sec. of State as an active member of the National Security Council, he will have ~~xxx~~ tremendous ~~impact~~ influence" ~~xxxx~~

-- Will Kissinger's influence diminish.

"I ~~don't~~ wouldn't think so. He'll have very great influence. He has and he will. But there are also other voices that come to me and those voices will be heard as well."

-- Possible running mates in '76?

"We've got a wide variety of fine potential candidates.

(Re: the economy question at start, President said "We are making real headway.")

The President did not work the airport rope after his session with local reporters, but shook hands with half-dozen state troopers and half-dozen motorcycle cops before boarding.

Poolers: Nyhan, Norton and anonymous AP man.

Note: Rep. Heckler joined the Air Force One party for flight to Boston.