

POOL REPORT # 8

Delegates Luncheon at Rambouillet

Lunch which was scheduled to begin at 1:00 was delayed 45 minutes. There was no explanation. Summit participants were in a second floor dining room overlooking a small lake at the back of the Chateau when the poolers were admitted. President Ford was seated between President Giscard d'Estaing of France and Prime Minister Miki of Japan. As we arrived the President was talking with British Foreign Secretary James Callaghan, referring to something about American secondary and elementary schools. Callaghan responded by making a remark about American shipbuilding efforts during World War II. The context of these subjects was not clear.

After his conversation with Callaghan the President turned to his left to begin talking with d'Estaing. The President gestured toward the lake and Giscard responded, "yes, there are fishes in there." Noise level in the room from the activity and confusion by three groups of photographers precluded poolers from hearing the complete conversations.

As Ford and Giscard were talking a large Weimaraner suddenly appeared in the room and Giscard called it over, it placed its head on the table between the two Presidents and first Giscard petted it and the President reached down to stroke its neck. While this momentous event commanded the attention of the heads of the French and U.S. governments, Secretary of State Kissinger chatted with Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey of Great Britain at the other end of the table. Again the conversation could not be heard clearly. Kissinger was seated between Prime Minister Rumor of Italy and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany. Madame Giscard d'Estaing was just two seats away from Kissinger.

At each place setting, there were three crystal wine glasses a menu with a drawing of a large stag in the prone position on the front. The menu consisted of Mousseline de St. Jacques a la Mantua, scallops with a crawfish cream sauce, whipped. For the entree, Grenadine (filet of veal with mushrooms); Pommes anna (potatoes); salad; cheese, and a cake (Saint-Honore and two wines).

The white wine was Chavalier Montrachet '77 and the red was Chateau Margaux '59. The champagne was Laurent perrier grand siecle.

Tom Brokaw - NBC

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