



Telegram

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and the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

Pool report for evening of Dec. 27.

This evening of presidential partying began, for your pool, at 7:15 p.m. when we left the press center only to wait in cars 45 minutes for President, who did not leave his chalet until 8. WH advance staff explained subsequently that President "just decided to spend a few more minutes in the House."

Motorcade proceeded to ~~RE~~ the Red Lion restaurant without glimpse of President, who went directly downstairs to the dinner being held for him by Dekes. He spent 3 1/2 hours there.

~~After~~

The President and Betty Ford emerged at 11:45. ~~with~~ Mrs. Ford was wearing her black full-length coat trimmed with Persian lamb and black high-heel shoes. President was bareheaded and was wearing the same blue sport shirt with red piping that our more experienced poolers said he also wore to the fondue dinner at the holiday inn on Tuesday. He also wore grey slacks and a red-and-blue ~~paid~~ jacket. ~~At~~ A crowd estimated at about 20 persons cheered as Mr. Ford came out. Mrs. Ford waved to the television cameras as she got into ~~the~~ the car. The President stopped briefly to say hello to the people waiting ~~for~~ on the ~~street~~ street. Someone in the crowd yelled "Merry Christmas" and the President alertly responded, "Happy New Year."

LORENCE C. BYROULT

Afterward, ~~the~~ ~~owner~~ (spelling?), owner of the Red Lion ~~for~~ restaurant described the affair as "a very good time, a very jolly party." He said we had "cocktails and two wines" with dinner.

~~The~~ "I started this dinner ~~when~~ three years ago," *said* ~~Deke~~ ~~Richard~~ who described himself as a fellow Deke from Michigan. "We would have held the same party without the President but it was nice to have him here." ~~George~~ ~~Chalmers~~ of Yale, another Deke, claimed that there were more Dekes present from Yale than from Michigan. Enough already. Ford returned to his chalet at 11:50.

Lou Cannon
Washington Post