

JANUARY 5, 1976

POOL REPORT #2 & #3
 Reception for State Farm Bureau Leaders and
 Luncheon for National Farm Bureau Leaders

The reception for Presidents of State Farm bureaus was held in Committee Room C in Kiel Auditorium shortly after Ford's speech to the Farm Bureau. Reception began at 12:10 p.m., 20 minutes late. The President entered the room, where the State Farm Bureau leaders were standing around, and said: "I'm just going to wander around and meet people.

He talked and bantered for a few minutes, saying at one point: "What good judgement I had when I joined the Farm Bureau". At another point he referred to visiting the farm of Elton Smith, a veteran Farm Bureau leader, "In 1947 and 1948."

The pool was ushered out at that point, but we were told later that during the reception Ford posed for individual photographs with 49 Presidents of State Farm Bureaus. We did not find out where the fiftieth was. Alaska does not have a State Farm Bureau.

The reception ended at 12:30 and the President left Kiel Auditorium by the stage entrance on 14th street at 12:33. There were a few people--we would estimate a few dozen--at the corner of 14th street and Market street as the motorcade left the auditorium for the 2 minute drive to the Bel Air Hilton Hotel. The crowds on the downtown streets were very small--just a few bystanders or small groups of bystanders here and there.

At the Bel Air Hilton Hotel about 60 school children from the Spuede School in Ladue, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis were waiting in the lobby to greet Ford, which they did with much squealing and excitement. He patted a few heads as he walked by. The children were fifth graders.

After a short stay in his suite at the Bel Air, Ford came down for the luncheon with national leaders of the Farm Bureau. 12 national Farm Bureau leaders were seated at a horseshoe shaped table with the President and Secretary Butz for the luncheon which began on schedule.

There was some more banter while photographers took pictures, some of it dealing with the Washington Redskins. In a reference to the Washington coach, Ford was heard to say: "George will do alright."

Jim Deakin
 Bob Schieffer

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