

Jan. 5, 1976

pool report (john mashek, jim deakin)

bel air hilton to lambert field to washington

the 20-minute ride from the bel air hilton to lambert field was uneventful. at the foot of the ramp to air force one, ford shook hands and made small talk with about 20 uniformed and ~~in~~ plainclothes officers. he wore a coat but was hatless.

on the flight to andrews, nessen came back and reported that the president will attend funeral services tuesday for richard s. welch, the cia station chief in athens, greece. welch was assassinated in athens on december 23.

nessen said ford will leave the white house at 11:10 a.m. for the 11:30 services at the fort meyer chapel on the grounds of ailington cemetery. the services will last 15 or 20 minutes. ford will not be going to the graveside part of the service. he will return to the white house at 12:20. nessen said a travel pool ^{with 2 wires and 1 writer} of three (the wires and one additional writer) will go ^{to} the services for welch.

nessen said his briefing would be at the regular time--11:30 a.m. other than attending the funeral service, nessen said the president's time tuesday would be devoted to morning and afternoon staff meetings. he said hartmann is returning to the white house tomorrow and would have a 8 a.m. meeting with ford. he said the president would spend two or three hours daily ~~on~~ on the state of the union speech leading up to the jan. 19 delivery.

aboard AF one, nessen said ford was working on recommended changes in the intelligence community with jack marsh and mike duvall. he said ford was making tentative decisions on changes but would not make specific proposals until after the state of the union.

secretary earl butz came back, too, he ~~had~~ had a slip of paper which he said was in the president's fortune cookie at ~~the~~ the luncheon in st. louis. the words: "you should allow some period ^{of time} to pass before making a change ^{of} address." Butz said his ^{own} fortune was: "It is easier to run down hill than up" or something like that.

butz said he thought the president's speech went over well. asked about the absence of big applause, he said farm audiences don't react that way. at a meeting with the bureau executive board--12 or so--butz said they accepted ford's explanation on why he invoked the embargoes. he said ford was asked about selling out to george meany, and he (Ford) responded that he vetoed the common ~~market~~ situs bill so he couldn't be considered under meany's thumb.