

Pool Report, President working on State of Union

1/15/75

In a small room just ^{SW}~~west~~ of the Oval Office, The President was ready to pose for photos as the pool went in.

Ford shuffled some white pages while the pool asked what the budget figure was. He indicated it might be lower than his frequently-stated ~~number~~ \$395 billion goal.

"We're going to be as tight as we can be and still meet the various needs of the departments and agencies." He quickly added that the needs would have to be "legitimate."

Some further quotes:

Q. "Is it (the speech) almost finished?"

A. "It's a little too much, that's one of the problems."

Q. ~~XXXX~~ "How is the State of the Union? Perfect?"

A. "It's better than what I said last year."

Q. "It's not going to be a repeat?"

A. "No Sir!~~*~~ I mean, no mam!"

Compton
Fulsom