

FEBRUARY 7, 1976

POOL NO. 3 - RUNDLETT JR. HIGH SCHOOL TO THURBER RESIDENCE

The President emerged from the rear of the school gymnasium and was greeted by a crowd of about 50 persons. The motorcade pulled out about 3:10 p. m.

He stopped off at the Greenbriar Health Care Center, a nursing home, at about 4 p. m. The unscheduled stop, aides said, was made at the suggestion of Representative James Cleveland, who wanted Ford to visit one of the patients, Richard Chaput, 38. Chaput, who has been paralyzed since childhood from polio is, Cleveland said, "One of the most remarkable people I have ever met in public life."

Chaput has written two inspirational books and given numerous lectures on his struggle to overcome his handicap. He was named "Man of the Year" by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce. He has also been a Nashua campaign manager in Cleveland's past Congressional campaign.

The President was accompanied to Chaput's room by nursing home administrator, William Thoms, and Rep. Cleveland.

Mr. Chaput was lying on his back in bed, with what appeared to be an electronic device near his head, and the only pooler permitted in the room understood Mr. Chaput used the device to demonstrate to the President his ability to talk on the telephone.

Mr. Chaput asked the President his views on Medicare, and the President explained the proposal he made in his State of the Union address. After the explanation and a couple of other questions, Chaput indicated he was satisfied. The President shook hands with a number of the 238 residents of the home on his way in and out of Chaput's room and left at 4:20 p. m.

President Nixon visited Greenbriar in 1972, where he made a speech on health care reform. Other recent visitors have included Senator Birch Bayh and Eunice Kennedy Shriver. And Ronald Reagan is due next week.

Ford arrived at the Thurber residence, a red brick colonial with a white frame addition, at 4:32 p. m. Coatless, he shook hands with a crowd of about 60 people outside the house for about 5 minutes.

Betty Ford was on hand to greet the President with a bouquet of flowers. As the President and Mrs. Ford walked into the Thurber residence, a man came up to Betty, shook her hand and said, "Welcome to our neighborhood."

SHOGAN - LA Times
WALCZAK - Business Week
BOYD - Mutual