

FEBRUARY 7, 1976

POOL NO. 4 - BEFORE AND AFTER DINNER

The President and Mrs. Ford mingled with about 50 head-table guests and others at a reception prior to the dinner. One of the guests was J. Herman Pouliot, publisher of the Nashua Telegraph. Pouliot told us that he urged the President to come back to New Hampshire before the primary and said the President indicated he would. Pouliot supports Ford.

Pouliot said he thought the President could help himself with an additional visit, commenting "They (the voters) just want to see him. They want to hear him in person. Pouliot said he asked the President if he had seen the Manchester Union Leader editorial today attacking him, and quoted the President as saying, "You just ignore that -- you have to."

The Ford's spent approximately 30 minutes at the reception, which was held in the men's exercise room near the gymnasium.

After the dinner, Mrs. Ford went directly back to the Thurber house. However, Mr. Ford went to nearby Hollis to the town's 1976 Bicentennial Ball. It was held in a lodge in a heavily wooded area called Alpine Grove. The ball kicked off the town's Bicentennial year. There were 378 persons there according to one of the ball committee members. Mr. Ford was introduced by the No. 1 Selectman of Hollis and given a copy of the history of Hollis. He spoke only about a minute, thanking them for their invitation and saying he had a "wonderful, stimulating day of campaigning in New Hampshire." "It was a great end to a great day." His voice was a little husky and he said, "I've done a lot of talking today."

He turned down several invitations to dance, and left in 15 minutes.

TOM FOLEY - U.S. NEWS & WORLD  
REPORT

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