

POOL REPORT # 7

February 8, 1976

Following Press Conference

President Ford drove from the Mills residence to his news conference and immediately after the conference met with the Sigma Beta fraternity members in the hallway. Almost all the 50 young men sported Ford buttons in their lapels. They presented him with a red football jersey which read, "Ford in 76". They also handed him a membership certificate in the fraternity, and asked him to sign a white canvas sun visor, which will be put on display in the fraternity house.

Then one of the Sigma Beta brothers gave the President the fraternity handshake, which handed in a clasp with "thumbs up". The young man said, "Thumbs up in 76." President Ford responded, "Any help you can give us, we'll appreciate."

Mr. Ford reminisced he first came to this campus in 1935 as a football scout for Yale. He complimented the students on their hockey team, adding "I watched the Olympics and the American hockey team played those Russian amateurs. I'm very proud of them."

On a political note, the President told the fraternity brothers, "I love competition." When they asked him to kneel for a picture with the group, he said, "I'm not sure I can bend down. When I fall on skis, my very good friends in the press photograph it."

Before leaving the building, President Ford shook hands with former Governor Peterson; Jim Cleveland, his campaign manager; and several university officials.

He drove back across the street to the residence.

Ann Compton - ABC

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