

PPG reception at the Bahia Mar Ballroom; Air Force 1 pool reports.

About 500 to 600 persons sipped coffee and munched danish to the accompaniment of the Good Times Band, a rock and roll ensemble playing the music of such contemporary pop stars, the Bee Gees and Bread. The Pres arrived at 8:08 to cheers and worked the crowd for about 20 minutes where one lady was heard to exclaim "He looks like ~~an~~ a very simple, plain, ~~and~~ ordinary man." Another man told the Pres to "Givem Hell."

(The President then spoke for about 15 minutes and pool unders~~tand~~s remarks were piped back to HOJOS press room.)

During the Pres. speech nessen told the pool that Miami Dolphin's offensive tackle Norm Evans came to Pres's sweet early this AM and chatted for 10 to 15 minutes. Evans, who is involved in Christian Athletic activities is among those invited to Sundays athletic prayer breakfast at the White House....Pres offered him a ride to Washington on AF #1 but Evans declined explaining he had to get to DC sooner than the President...!

At the conclusion of his remarks, the President worked his way out of the ballroom shaking hands all the way. He left hotel shortly after 9AM....About three minutes later at 9:05, the motorcade stopped near the corner of Sea Breeze and Harbor Beach Parkway. A Ft Lauderdale city police motorcyclist ~~scort~~ing the President had an accident....The officers motorcycle apparently flipped but the Presidents motorcade was not directly involved in the mishap. The officer was lying on the side of the road with his head on the curb; he was bleeding from an abrasion on the right arm....The officer appeared to be in considerable pain...Mr Ford got out of his car and went to the officer and bent over and took the injured officers hand and gave it a squeeze. Poolers heard the officer say thankyou. According to Dr. Lukash, according to nessen, ~~and~~ Ford told the policeman, "I'm sorry, very sorry about the accident. I hope you're up and around very quickly." Poolers were kept about 40' back by SS agents.

Motorcade was detained about 2 minutes overall.. and ambulance was approaching as we departed..

At the airport He was presented with an autographed soccer ball by the St Anthony Soccer Club, and a big Valentine Poster by a group of 3rd gra de~~s~~...

He worked the fence stopped at one point to autograph a cast on a boy's ~~arm~~ Shook hands with band members and Shriners.

Aboard AF#1...Nessen came back and said, ~~and~~ dont expect crowd at St Pete. airport because its too far from the city, no ~~and~~ effort made to get crowd; and its a secondary terminal.. He will be greeted at ~~and~~ airport by 23 mayors of Pinellas Co (check spelling?) Nessen said all 23 had been invited and accepted.

Farney, DeFrank, Growald, MACCleod, Rodgers