

February 14, 1976

POOL REPORT #10

POOL REPORT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO VETERANS' HOSPITAL
IN BAY PINES

After shaking hands with 20 veterans in the wheel chairs on the sidewalk in front of the hospital, President Ford went inside with Congressman Frey, Congressman Young, and Dr. Henry F. Burke, chief of staff of the hospital.

Walked to the second floor and greeted by half a dozen nurses and patients. One nurse said, "Make Mrs. Ford Vice President." Ford said, "I know some people want to make her President."

Then he walked down a hall and darted into rooms in the orthopedic ward. Some were two-man rooms, some four-man rooms, and he ended up in a large room containing about a dozen beds. All orthopedic patients.

Paused several times to sign autographs and paused twice to sign a cast. First man with cast was Jerry L. Smith Sr., who has been hospitalized 10 months for knee surgery. Second man was Bob Corkery, a Viet Nam veteran--also in for knee surgery.

Then left the wards and walked down stairs with Dr. Burke. Overheard asking Burke how many beds the new addition might have and was told about 950. Then he walked out and began his public promises.

Lee Walczak, Business Week
Phil Jones, CBS (subsidiary Village Voice)
Aldo Beckman, Chicago Tribune

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