

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 28, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY  
(Fort Lauderdale, Florida)

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION  
OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
SPANISH RIVER PARK

BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

5:50 P.M. EST

QUESTION: Can you tell us what the impact of this motorcade will be on the Florida primaries?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it will be very much a plus. I have met so many people. The crowds have been enthusiastic. I have seen a number of old friends. It has been very interesting. So I am very encouraged because I know these people coming down here are here on my behalf.

QUESTION: From Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: And Michigan, all over. That really helps. That surely will be helpful in getting the vote out, getting other people to be convinced.

QUESTION: Do you think something like this would swing the balance of the difference in a close race, something similar to the race in New Hampshire?

THE PRESIDENT: Very definitely.

QUESTION: These Florida mosquitos are coming out, Mr. President. (Laughter)

QUESTION: On the plane coming down here, I understand, according to UPI, you said that your campaign here was good and they thought you would carry Florida. Is this based on any new polls that you have, because you also spoke very optimistically on the airplane.

THE PRESIDENT: I am very optimistic. Everything we see, the crowds, the enthusiasm, the organization, leadership, all of it is very much on the plus side, so I am convinced with the momentum we have generated in New Hampshire and all of the other factors, I think we are going to win. We are working very hard, and I am absolutely convinced that things are going exactly in the right direction, and we are going to win.

MORE

QUESTION: You have spoken of being up about 12 percent, I believe, at the airport. Is this based on any polls? Do you have any hard facts on this?

THE PRESIDENT: As I understand, the campaign manager for my opponent a month or two ago said that he was going to win two to one, and that is 67 percent. I understand yesterday he said they were going to win by 55 percent, so that is a 12-percent gain almost overnight. And if we just keep that momentum going, it's bound to be in the right direction.

QUESTION: Do you see the Florida primary being as close as New Hampshire?

THE PRESIDENT: I will predict it the way we did in New Hampshire, that we are going to win. We are optimistic and very encouraged.

It's really nice and good to see you.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 5:57 P.M. EST)