

MARCH 26, 1976

PRESS POOL #5 Report - Air Force One from San Francisco to L. A.

Motorcade to S.F. International uneventful. Flight uneventful. Nessen came back and said the Fresno speech would be ready later this afternoon for 6 a.m. Saturday release.

Ford worked fence at L.A. International for eight minutes--mostly Cub Scouts and Brownies from neighboring communities. Crowd at airport about 2000.

In brief airport press conference, Ford was asked about Gov. Brown's presidential candidacy. Ford said: "I think it is up to the Democrats to make the choice." He predicted the Dems. would wind up nominating Humphrey.

He said he regarded California as "very important" in the primary season and "very important" in the general election.

Asked about Reagan's possibility as his running mate, he said the party had a "wealth of good vice presidential candidates" and Reagan was among them.

A reporter pointed out that none of the kids in the airport crowd were of voting age. Ford replied: "They're nice kids and I love them."

Asked about the Ford committee's financial condition, he said: "I think we're in good shape. We obviously have not reached our goal yet."

Asked about his campaigning plans, he said he would go to states that were important and that had primaries.

The motorcade to the Century Plaza followed a circuituous route, avoiding the freeways. There were lots of police officers on motorcycles, oodles of them. The trip took about 25 minutes. Presidential limo entered the hotel through the garage entrance.

For those who are still awake, that concludes the pool report.

St. Louis Post Dispatch--Deakin
U.S. News & World Report--Mashek

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