

PRESS POOL REPORT NUMBER TWO--THE ALAMO--APRIL 9, 1976

The President entered the Alamo grounds through a rear door and walked into the gift shop, where he was greeted by the curator, C.J. Long, and members of the Alamo chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. He was presented with a citation which he promised would be prominently exhibited in the residence. Then he was ushered into the main building (the chapel) and shown first to the sacristy, a small dark room containing flags of all the states whose sons died at the Alamo on March 6, 1836. He was then shown through the chapel proper, pausing at various display cases filled with artifacts of the battle--weapons belonging to the participants, etc. He was told there were only two original items from the battle itself. One is a ring belonging to Colonel William B. Travis, the commander of Texas forces, who had tied it around the neck of an eighteen month old girl shortly before the final battle. While inside the President signed guest book "Gerald R. Ford, 1600 Pa. Ave., Wash., D.C."

Then the President walked into a courtyard to meet members of the DRT who had laid out a table of Tex-Mex food: tamales, tostadas with green dip, fresh fruits, and bunuelos, a crispy, sugary fried pastry, plus fruit punch.

To some members of the pool, it appeared that the President was preparing to down his tamale, shuck and all. But the ever-watchful matrons of the DRT helped the President unshuck his tamale without incident.

Abramson and DeFrank

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