

April 10, 1976

POOL NO. 9 Report

President Ford at PFC Breakfast in Gold Room,
Fairmont Hotel, Dallas

President Ford, in dark blue suit, light blue shirt and striped blue tie, arrived 8:56. About 300 volunteers and campaign workers, sipping juice or coffee, awaited him. He went through his hindpumping "Good morning, how are you, nice to see you" routine for seven minutes. In his wake was John Tower, senior senator from Texas.

Tower introduced Ford, saying: "These are the most important people in your campaign effort here in Texas. I would like to say to all of you, not only do we expect you to turn out every possible person you can find, human or animal--as they do in south Texas or Tombstone--to vote for President Ford in the primary".

Tower also urged workers to attend state Republican convention to help select the 100 alternatives and four at large delegates. Ended by quoting King Henry, as reported by Shakespeare: "Once more into the breach dear friends."

Ford, standing against blue curtain backdrop and "President Ford 76" sign, thanked his supporters for their organization, phone banks "and many other hard chores that have to be done".

Identified with them by recalling his own campaign efforts in 1940 for Wendell Wilkie, when he said he spent "most of my summer trying to see he had his opportunity in the presidential race, so I know precisely what you are doing, how you are trying to do it, and I know it makes a difference."

"It is a very significant factor in this race, where I think we are coming from behind, but we might surprise some people who are a little over confident perhaps," said President.

Ford then suggested answers his campaigners might give to some "legitimate" questions they could be asked:

"Let me tell you what I would say, and what Betty has said in New Hampshire, and Florida, and what our children have said when they are repeatedly interrogated," he said.

Questions were on economy, government interference and military strength. His suggested answers were predictably: 1) inflation down, unemployment down, jobs at highest level ever; 2) every government department has been instructed to cut its form-sending by 10 percent by July 1, and task forces of "outsiders" have been sent by White House into agencies "to make sure all those obsolescent regulations can be dumped, and there are many, 3) the U.S. is unsurpassed militarily, agriculturally; scientifically.

He ended by talks about nation's "great devotion and spiritual, religious, deep-seated convictions" which could be inspiration to keep going and to improve America.

He ended at 8:13 and exited the way he came in--pumping flesh and saying, "Good morning, how are you, nice to see you".

Gilbert Lewthwaite--Baltimore Sun

#