

APRIL 23, 1976

FCCI REPORT #7,3,9

TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE TO FT. WORTH

The President's motorcade left Tyler Junior College at 9:55 a.m. in a light rain, arriving without incident at the Gregg County Airport near Longview at 10:50 a.m. Trip covered 34 miles.

Almost immediately, the President was mobbed by about 70 members of the Kilgore Junior College Rangerettes, a world renowned precision dance group which entertains at football halftimes and other social events. The President, sporting a genuine 10 gallon stetson hat was surrounded and pawed by the excited young women from the Rangerettes, a few of whom, unable to control themselves, kissed him with abandon, when the President began working the crowd of several thousand along the airport fence. It was an unusually enthusiastic crowd in which spectators, apparantly turned on by the Rangerettes behavior, reached out and grabbed for the President repeatedly. At the end of the fence the President briefly picked-up a baton and pretended to be leading the Marshall High School Band.

Then the President began walking along a line of uniformed young girls from the Longview High School -- another precision dance organization that calls itself the Viewettes. What began with a certain amount of decorum, the President politely shaking hands soon degenerated into another all out kissing orgy. Your pool observed a total of 34 kisses about the last 30 of which were consecutive after all signs of decorum and discipline had broken down. At the end of the line the President seemed to warm to the task, reaching out to hug and kiss the young girls who anxiously awaited their turn.

Before fighting his way to the Air Force One ramp, the President had one more encounter with the Rangerettes, who had formed a double line along his approach to the ramp. He was accompanied through the line by four Rangerette Captains -- each Presidential arm embracing 2 of the Rangerettes. Then, at the foot of the ramp, the remaining Rangerettes broke ranks and rushed the President, knocking his stetson from his head and showering him with a final barrage of Texas hospitality.

A Secret Service agent reported that when the President finally managed to climb aboard Air Force One face was covered with lipstick smudges and the President was grinning sheepishly. The President, despite the mauling, was reported to be in good health, as he arrived in Ft. Worth.

Tom De Frank, Newsweek
Ed Walsh, Washington Post

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