

POOL REPORT #20

Waco Civic Center - Dallas

April 29, 1976

President shook hands with people as he approached Indian Spring suspension bridge for ribbon cutting. No shovel in sight for earth turning. Remarked to crowd the weather more like Michigan weather than Texas.

Aboard Air Force One, Senator John Tower told the pool the President's chances in Saturday's primary "are looking better all the time. We've got the momentum going." Asked whether Reagan made a mistake in not campaigning here this week, Tower said, "he might have gotten too bullish. If I'd been his campaign manager, I'd have had him here all week." (Reagan arrived in state today.) Tower appeared to be worried about the Wallace factor, which he said could work to the President's disadvantage in those districts where the Republican turnout is historically very low. Statewide, he said, the more Democratic crossovers there are, the more Ford will be helped -- the Wallace crossover vote would thus be diluted.

Reagan's best areas are Houston, San Antonio and Midland-Odessa, Tower said.

Tower predicted Ford will win California, basing his belief on the large number of former Reagan aides and supporters who are now working in the Ford campaign nationally and in California.

Bill Broom

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