

FOR YOUR USE AND INFORMATION

MAY 13, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSEThe "Presidential Express"

The "Presidential Express" combines Amtrak's newest and most modern equipment with a 22-year-old observation car, the only open platform car in the Amtrak fleet.

Powering the train are two new F40PH locomotives, which have just gone into service on Amtrak routes utilizing the new Amfleet cars. The F40s are 3,000-horsepower locomotives, capable of speeds of over 100 miles an hour. In addition to hauling the train, the locomotives provide power for heating and air conditioning. They are made by General Motors.

The new Amfleet cars are identical to ones that will go into service next week between Chicago and Detroit. Made of stainless steel, the Amfleet cars provide a smooth ride with the use of air suspension.

Amtrak has 492 of the Amfleet cars on order and has taken delivery of about 200. Each Amfleet car weighs about 100,000 pounds.

The Presidential Car, "Amtrak 10,000" was built in 1954 by the Wabash Railroad Shops and was once the Pennsylvania Railroad's No. 1 office car. It weighs more than twice as much as the Amfleet cars -- 105 tons -- and has a special suspension system. It is owned by the Auto-Liner Corporation of Omaha, Nebraska, and is being leased by Amtrak as a track inspection car. It is 85 feet long and 10 feet wide.

Presidential Travel by Train

President Ford traveled by train in Romania on August 3, 1975, and in the USSR on November 24, 1974.

Other Presidents who have utilized train travel include President Kennedy, from Philadelphia to Washington on December 2, 1961, and from Philadelphia to Washington on December 1, 1962. On both occasions he had attended the Army-Navy game.

President Johnson rode a train in Korea on November 1, 1966.

(MORE)

President Nixon traveled by train on September 27, 1972 from San Leandro, California, to Lake Merritt Station and on July 13, 1974, from Cairo to Alexandria, Egypt.

The last President to campaign by train was President Truman's "Whistle Stop Tour" which began in Washington on September 17, 1948, and he made his first speech from the rear platform of the train in Pittsburgh on that date. He conducted most of his campaign by train until October 30, 1948, when he made his final campaign speech in St. Louis before going to Independence to cast his vote November 3, 1948.

Mrs. Lyndon Johnson campaigned for her husband by train on October 6-19, 1964, from Alexandria, Virginia, to New Orleans, Louisiana.

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