

Johnson City to Memphis.

After the speech in Freedom hall, the president shook hands going down the center aisle and immediately went into a regional media reception.

"There is no reason to have any writers in there," Ron Nessen decreed, so there was no coverage.

After 15 minutes, the president emerged and went across the hall to a second reception---this one for Republican supporters.

Sen. Baker introduced the group to the president as "the movers and shakers of the Republican party ~~xxxxxx~~ in East Tennessee."

"They are the people to whom you owe the success you undoubtedly are going to have here on May 25," Baker said.

The president thanked them and said, "This kind of support is going to give us the opportunity to win on May 25."

He briefly repeated his themes of peace, prosperity, and trust.

The president finished his five-minute remarks and started shaking hands, when Baker went to the mike to interrupt and tell the president that Abe Lincoln's uncle lived in the area at one time and, in fact, had young Abe down one summer. Baker said the story was that young Abe didn't return because he was worked too hard by his uncle.

Then Baker summoned a young man in his 30's to the platform, and said he was a descendant of Abe's uncle. The father, Abe Lincoln, (not Abraham) is the GOP chairman for Sullivan county, we were told.

The president posed briefly with Abe and his two young sons, and said, "Your great great great grandfather would have supported me." A few handshakes outside before heading for their airport. Uneventful ride.

In answer to questions
Nessen back early on to say, "The president will soon nominate the six members (including the chairman) to the FEC." Said he does not expect it today in Kentucky.

Osborne, Gibson, Beckman