

May 15, 1976

POOL REPORT #11

(Holiday Inn to Amtrak Station)

Your pool picked up the President as he emerged from a breakfast meeting with the Editorial Board of Booth Newspapers. En route back to his suite, Ford met briefly with a delegation from the Fraternal Order of Police and 3 daughters of a Flint policeman killed on duty in 1971.

The FOP delegation was headed by Capt. William Bannister, National Secretary of FOP. Others in the group were John Bentball, President of the Flint Lodge, FOP; Robert Herrick, President, Gennessee Lodge, FOP; and Harry Abbott, past President, Gennessee Lodge.

The delegation was accompanied by 3 daughters of Ben Walker, the last Flint policeman killed on duty. They were Kim, 17; Kathy, 14; and Kelly, 10. Their father was slain in 1971 at a local dentist's office when 2 inmates he was escorting overpowered him and another officer.

Most of Ford's remarks to the FOP group were inaudible. But we did hear him say "I strongly support you and always have." Ford also apologized for being unable to attend a memorial service this afternoon for Michigan policemen killed in the line of duty.

After shaking hands with the group a second time, Ford returned to his suite for about 45 minutes. We were told he called a meeting of Upper Peninsula AP editors. The President then moved to an adjoining room for an interview with WWJ (Detroit).

A crowd of perhaps 100 cheered and waved as the President and Mrs. Ford left the hotel for the train station. The trip to the station was uneventful.

Ford spent about 10 minutes working the crowd at the station. One man who said his name was Basil Eugene Friend presented the President with a plaque. Ford chatted with him briefly, and then made his way to the platform car as your pool scurried to get aboard the Presidential Express.

Gene Gibbons, UPI Audio
Bob Joiner, St. Louis Post
Dispatch

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