

MAY 22, 1976

POOL REPORT--ANDREWS TO MEDFORD, OREGON

Nessen came out and gave us manifest. On board; Cheney, Nessen, Hartmann, Orben, Spencer, Kaye, Penny and former Congressman John Dellenbach (R-Ore.), now head of the Peace Corps.

Nessen was asked whether the President had discussed the busing controversy with Bill Coleman, and he replied: "Not so far as I know." He described the Ford-Levi meeting as "a progress report" and said no further meetings scheduled at this time.

We pressed Nessen on the city which would be used as the basis for intervention, and he allowed that if Boston is not the one, it could be Louisville or some other city.

"The President directed him (Levi) to find a case," Nessen said. "If he doesn't have one now, he'll just have to keep his eyes open for one. Peter Kaye and Stu Spencer came back together and gave us a rundown on the upcoming primaries:

Oregon--Kaye called Oregon "a good state." Said they have four major phone banks, hope to telephone 35,000 households by election night. PFC also has sent out 80,000 specialized mailings signed by state legislators, stressing local issues. Will spend \$180,000 in Oregon; used as advocates Richardson, Marjorie Lynch, Bill Seidman, Mrs. Ford and Steve Ford. "We have had a pretty consistent lead in polls," Kaye said. The last poll taken by the Oregonian May 3-11 showed Ford ahead by 13 percent, a slippage of 8 points since the poll which had been taken pre-Texas (may poll shows 17 percent undecided). "I suspect we're back up now," Kaye said. "Both U. S. Senators are supporting the President."

FYI--Oregon a closed primary, no crossovers, 30 delegates. California-- "I think our campaign organization there is distinguished by the number of former Reagan associates," Kaye said. "We are flooding the state with advocates (Richardson, Butz, Simon, Hills, Zarb, Rumsfeld, Mrs. Ford, Jack and Steve)."

Called the phone bank system "very extensive." Said they have 22 phone centers making 20,000 calls a night, trying to reach 500,000 Republican households by election. PFC organized in 51 of 58 counties. Also cited "extensive in-state organization" concentrating on Reagan record as Governor.

"Are these legislators following Reagan around the state?" "We may do that," Kaye said. "We are timing our subject matter to what he says and where he is."

On polls, Kaye said a field poll taken two weeks ago showed RR with a 10 percent lead over President. Previous polls had showed CRF ahead of 5, RR by 5.

"California is the most volatile state," Kaye said. "It is the country; it is too big to be a microcosm." (FYI--167 delegates, closed registration, only winner-take-all state). They expect to spend \$800,000 in California.

National issues in California headed by unemployment, Kaye said, adding "the improving economy will help us." On foreign policy, he said Californians are "not extremists." Asked about a return to California, Kaye said "there is a possibility, but no more than a possibility."

(MCRE)

When asked about stop at leisure world, Kaye explained it was because of senior citizens. "That was a very strong voting group for us in Florida," he said. "... we go where the votes are."

Spencer then discussed the campaign in a more general way:

Fund-raising: "We don't have a problem raising money, but we do have to be careful with the \$13.1 million ceiling... we hope to hold out a half million for the convention... the care and feeding of delegates is a very expensive thing; that might be where the show is."

Upcoming primaries: "I don't think anyone has a handle or a real feel for them. We feel pretty good about Oregon; (what about Ky. and Tenn.?) We have a better chance in Kentucky." Kaye: "The TVA thing (Reagan's comments on TVA) was a hell of a break for us in Tennessee."

Asked what Pennsylvania and New York actions will mean, Stu said: "I think it will be a definite plus... it will help with momentum."

Spencer said PFC expects Ford will win Kansas, Alaska, and Vermont this weekend in caucuses, feels Ford will get at least 50 of the 71 delegates at stake in those states.

Can President win it on first ballot? "I still think it is possible," Spencer said.

What you going to do between last caucus June 20 and the convention? "There will be a whole series of delegate-raiding, and talking to uncommitted delegates."

He said that of all six primaries on Tuesday (all proportional states), there won't be a difference of "more than 15 or 20" between the winner and the loser.

Why have so many Reagan people shifted their allegiance to Ford: "They felt President Ford was doing a good job, he is a sitting President; secondly, a lot of them have some deep concerns about Reagan's ability to handle the Presidency. There is a feeling that the staff ran the office in Sacramento and many people perceive Reagan as a nine-to-five governor;" Spencer said.

"He has several areas where he is vulnerable. The proposition one issue (FYI -- property tax relief), which was a real bread-and-butter issue, and he got defeated on that," Kaye added. "Then there is the question of his party leadership."

Kaye contended that Reagan weakened the GOP in California while he was governor and cited the loss of two U.S. Senators; all state-wide offices but one, and turned Republican majorities in both houses of the legislature into 2/3 Democratic majorities.

As a former Reagan supporter, Spencer was asked, does RR want to be President? "Very badly," he said. Asked if he is spurred on by his wife, Spencer nodded and added: "They both want it very badly,"

Looking ahead, Spencer said: "We're in good shape in New Jersey though that is technically an uncommitted delegation. In Ohio, we've got a 24-delegate advantage going in because Reagan did not enter eight districts."

Spencer -- "if we win California, we win it on the first ballot. We still can win it on the first ballot if we lose California."

Lunch catered by National Press Club chef de cuisine.

Kohler
Rodgers
Walczak
Benedict