

POOL #19

Cortez Hotel to Westgate Plaza Hotel to Tuna Boat to Air Force One to Van Nuys

May 24, 1976

When greeting overflow crowd in Cortez, President spoke of just having met three old shipmates, including Admiral Tome Hamilton. As he left main speech area he chatted briefly with Barbara Lowerison who is head of the National League of Families in San Diego. She gave the President her brother's MIA bracelet. He was shot down over Vietnam October 1, 1965. She asked the President to name a negotiator to deal with the North Vietnamese on the MIA matter. President responded that the Administration is working to resolve the MIA problem.

After giving three TV interviews at Westgate Plaza -- a very plush place decorated in cream and gold -- President reception of PFC workers: Memorable line of talk: "Jerry Ford is going to fight to the last hour in the state of California."

Leaving the Versaille Room, he saw pooler Phil Jones sitting on a brocaded sofa and said, "Come on Phil," and told a bystander, "Phil used to be one of our more energetic reporters" and suggested that Dr. Lukash "give him a pill." Pooler Jones said, "I'm tired -- let's go home." The President replied, "No, we're just starting." For the record, Pooler Jones objects to inclusion of this in pool report.

President Ford then proceeded by motorcade to tuna fishing boat Theresa Janene moored in harbor. He wore thick crepe-soled shoes to walk up gangplank. Aboard, he greeted crew and talked to Joe Medina, President of San Diego Tuna Boat Association. Mr. Medina showed him new nets he had designed that he said was less harmful to porpoises. In impromptu news conference on boat, President enlarged on TV interview statement that he would work with Congress to overturn the judicial decision on tuna fishing that forbids netting porpoises with tuna. He said decision would destroy tuna industry. Justice Department will decide this week whether to appeal Richey decision.

Osborne  
Jones  
Shabecoff

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