[5-26-76]

air force one--columbus to washington

Stu Spencer came back shortly after takeoff to volunteer an assessment of the recent expedition as "a very good trip." "Everybody we talked to," he said, "indicated we could win California if we put out a 110 percent effort, which we intend to do." He said there no question that Tuesday's outcome was a boost for California.

"I understand that the Reagan people aren't too happy."

Asked where the remaining Ford cam aogn will concentrate in California, he said most GOP votes are in the South. The Ford campaign will concentrate on getting out a big vote, he said, because the bigger the turnout the better for Ford's prospects.

On the tradeoff between another trip and use of the money for media, Spencer said he believes it will be possible to generate the enthisiasm and a big voter turnout either way.

"As of tonight," he said, "we have no travel plans for the next two weeks." But he said the decision makers will be talking about it Thursday and Friday.

On all the busing emphasis in the press conference, Spencer ducked talking substance, but he conceded it is a major issue. He said he doesn't know what effect it had in Tennessee and Kentucky, From a quick look at Kentucky voting, he said he thinks Ford probably did not do especially well in the Louisville suburbs.

Spencer said he could not update the last Ford spending report, which showed more than $9 million spent against the $13.1 national ceiling.

Foley, Jones, Abramson

May 26, 1976

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