

POOL NUMBER 26

## Columbus Airport and rally outside State House

May 26, 1976

The President came to the front of the State House through a basement corridor and came up to a crowd of about 3,000 or 4,000. The rally had been planned with flyers distributed announcing the President would be there. But the event had not been put on our schedule.

There were two high school bands, two pairs of people dressed up as elephants. There were a few (about 30) people with unfriendly signs, most of them calling for the President to end unemployment. One young man from that group, as the President mounted the State House steps, yelled, "Go home."

Governor James Rhodes was there to M.C. the event. He introduced Barbara Nicklaus, wife of golfer Jack Nicklaus, who presented the President with a replica of Bobby Jones' Calamity Jane putter.

At that point some of the demonstrators began yelling at the President. They were drowned out by the introduction of Ohio football coach Woody Hayes, who said, "It takes a great man to attract this many Buckeyes when he came from Michigan." Hayes presented the President with a football inscribed with the scores of the Ohio State-Michigan games from 1932 to 1934, the years the President played for Michigan. Terry O'Donnell stepped forward to take the football from the President, who held on to it.

The chanters began yelling at this point, "jobs, jobs, jobs" and "jobs now". Governor Rhodes, in brief remarks, seemed to answer the demonstrators when he said the President was trying to create permanent jobs in this country, not jobs that the Congress could give and then take away. One young girl in the group of demonstrators at that point produced a bullhorn and began chanting again, "we want jobs." In her area she seemed to drown out the President, but the rest of the crowd was friendly.

The President did not look directly at the group, but he seemed to answer them as well when he immediately cited his signing of the Highway Bill that he said would produce jobs all across the country. He cited the usual employment figures (a record number of people working, etc.) and said, "We're going to do better and better and better."

The group kept yelling at the President throughout his remarks. He seemed rather strident as he spoke, and appeared to at least one pooler to be a bit angry.

Deakin  
Foley  
Gibson

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