

June 6, 1976

PRESS POOL #8--Air Force One from Cleveland to Cincinnati

As the motorcade pulled away from the hotel in Cleveland, the pool noted two officers atop the Post Office building across the street. One officer was aiming but was obviously a scoped rifle, while his companion was looking through binoculars. .

The motorcade then proceeded in an uneventful drive to Cleveland airport; wheels up at 9:45. No one came back. AF One landed five minutes early at 10:25 p. m.

Ford held a brief news session with reporters at the airport. He started by saying that he had a good day in New Jersey and Ohio and said he was bringing a straight-forward and simple message to the state: The Ford Administration was open and candid and very frank in restoring confidence in the White House. He said the Administration inherited a very bad economic situation but had cut the inflation rate from 12% to 3% or less. He also said that he had inherited a serious economic recession but that employment was now on the increase. He said the country was at peace. No boys were overseas, and they weren't going to countries such as in Southern Africa and Rhodesia. But he said the U. S. would be "militarily strong and diplomatically skillful." He expressed confidence that he would do well in Ohio in Tuesday's election and called the 97 delegates at stake crucial to a victory in Kansas City. Asked about Reagan's charge that the Ford ads in California had brought the campaign to a low level, the President responded the Ford campaign "told only the truth". He said he had been "very straight-forward" in his comments and that he had faith in his Committee at the national level.

The President then left in an uneventful 20 minute motorcade to the Stouffer's Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. The crowd was a small one outside the hotel. The President's car went to a basement entrance.

Mashek--U. S. News
Gibson--ABC

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