

AUGUST 17, 1976

## POOL REPORT--President's Visit with Illinois delegation

Drive to Hilton Plaza uneventful. The President was met outside by a crowd of about 1,000, many waving official PFC banners, and a band playing the Michigan Fight Song. Ford shook hands with some in the crowd along the ropes, including Uncle Sam, who a couple of days ago was dressed as Abe Lincoln. His name is Franklin Burke.

Although Reagan, who appeared earlier before the delegation, had allowed pool coverage, your pool was not permitted inside the Regency Room, where Ford met the delegates. He got a good cheer when he went in, chants of We Want Ford and occasional applause during his presentation, which lasted about 35 minutes. A few minutes before it broke up, Tom Railsback came out and said Ford's talk and the questions were "very standard and expected." Asked by one of the uncommitted why he won't name his running mate before the balloting, Railsback quoted Ford as saying: "The major issue is not between running mates but between me and Reagan." Railsback said Ford did say his selection would be "more moderate" than Schweiker, which Railsback took to mean "more conservative." Ford also told delegates his campaign would be a positive one. FYI: The Illinois delegation, according to reporters there, stands Ford 81, Reagan 12, Uncommitted, eight.

Saul Friedman - Knight

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