



Telegram

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Send the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

Pool report---Air Force I, Salina, Kas., Russell, etc.

We didn't learn until we had completed earlier pool report that Mrs. Ford and the kids were flying directly to Vail on the back-up plane, that was to leave about 11:30 from K.C.

She was tired after the convention, one White House type told us, and didn't feel up to making the Russell stop.

When AF I landed at Salina, about 2,000 persons were at the airport, but kept behind a high chain link fence. Ford and the Dole's (not the mother who got right on the chopper) walked over toward the fence and waved at the crowd. Then Dole moved forward to shake hands over the fence, so Ford followed suit. The fence was so high that it was immediately apparent that it wasn't a very good idea, so they backed off and Ford settled for shaking hands with those in the roped off area. Apparently local press, but did recognize some old friends from the Pan Am crew.

By now, Dole was sorta off alone, ^E greeting people he knew through the fence. He resisted efforts by Terry O'Donnell to join the President for the walk to the chopper, and walked about 50 feet to a corner of the roped off area to greet a middle-aged lady in a wheel chair.

Unclear whether he knew her, but she gave him a rather beat-up looking bouquet of sunflowers. Seemed like the type she might have ~~picked~~ picked rather than the florist variety.

Uneventful ~~in~~ 35-minute chopper ride to Russell. Half a dozen Dole friends on hand, along with press and a dozen airport employes at airport. Immediately into Ford's limousine. When they got to downtown, Ford and Dole and Dole's wife stood up ^{in back of limo} and waved the last 10 or 12 blocks before courthouse. People lining both sides, one deep most of the way.

(more)



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Upon leaving the courthouse, we were told that the president was dropping off Mrs. Betty Dole, the mother, at her home at the corner of North Maple and West 11th streets.

As they walked toward the single story red brick house, Dole pointed down the street to a vacant lot and said, "I was born down there, where that pile of dirt is." He said it was a two-room house that had been torn down a couple of months ago.

Mrs. Dole was asked how she felt. "I'm just so excited. I'm happy for him (her son). Then she was asked if she thought he would win.

"Sure, he always wins," she said. Then Dole looked over at pool, ~~he~~ cupped his lips and said, "I think she's a little ~~is~~ biased."

Then Ford got into the act, and said, "I haven't lost an election either." There was general good humor as the four (Dole's wife was ~~x~~ along) walked to a small concrete porch.

The elder Mrs. Dole reached into the mailbox and not finding the key walked over and checked a ledge ~~xxxxxx~~ along the house that was shielded by a green shrub.

It wasn't there either, and Dole joked that they might have to leave her in the back yard. "We can take her to the White House," Ford chimed in.

By now, Dole had sent his daughter, Robin, to the car, parked on the curb nearby, to see if there was a key in it. She came back empty-handed. But Dole's wife reached back to the ledge where Mother Dole had looked earlier and saved the day by finding the key. She explained that it "had slipped down" from where Dole's mother generally kept it.

The relieved Dole and the president went inside, but stayed less than five minutes before they emerged and headed for the airport.

(more)

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Uneventful trip. Same for ~~xxxx~~ chopper trip, but when Ford got back to Salina, it was back to the fence for some more waving and posing with Dole.

As Ford left Dole on the tarmac, he said, "We'll see you next week."

Back on AF I, Nessen said he planned no briefing for Saturday or Sunday.

Then Bob Hartmann came back to brief on how the president's acceptance speech was created.

He started off saying he was briefing "under duress" because "ghosts should be invisible." Then he gave us a chronology on the development of the speech.

"Pres started working on the speech write after the 4th of July." Pres and Hartmann got together on the 5th and Pres said, "We've got to get to work on this." First thing they did was dig out all the acceptance speeches from both parties going back to '48. ~~Hzzkxzxzxk~~ Hartmann sent out a memo to all the cabinet, except for the 3 ~~xxx~~ "non-politicals," Kissinger, Rumsfeld and Levý. Also members of the senior staff at the White House. All these were asked for suggestions in the form of "an outline rather than a draft." Brevity was stressed. Some PFC types—Morton, Spencer, ^{Ellie Peterson} and ~~Timmons~~—were also ~~pxxxx~~ asked for ideas, along with "old friends" like Bryce Harlow and Mel Laird.

Then GOP leaders in House and Senate were asked, too. Hartmann's office was the clearing house for these suggestions, and the Pres "read them all." Ford went over the memos, underlining ~~ii~~ ~~ee~~ as he liked in a red pencil.

Next stage, starting 3 weeks ago, Pres sat down w/ Hartmann and went over his own ideas for the speech, which he read off a yellow pad. Pres had a general outline for the speech.

Next stage, Hartmann took the outline to the speechwriting shop. All the speechwriters were told to produce a draft; there



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"I took these into the President along with my own, and eventually mine won," says Hartmann laughing. Then he said he was kidding; but added, "I did (provide) the basic draft because I'd had the benefit of working w/ him personally."

Pres then took all the drafts and marked the parts that he liked the best and wrote in some new stuff of his own. Then Hartmann went back and "put all of this together."

That amalgamated version went back to the Pres 2 weeks ago. "Then we began working on it every day for several hours, usually an hour in the morning and then in the afternoon."

Pres kept the draft of the speech very close, "didn't farm it out to everybody on the staff the way he usually does." Factual data was checked out without giving whole text to research team.

Two copies of draft, one w/ Pres, one w/ Hartmann. Draft was reviewed only by Jack Marsh and Dick Cheney "early on in the process and again toward the end of the process."

Why the secrecy? Who was he afraid would see it?

"It wasn't so much that--it was that everybody wants to change it."

Did Gergen ever see it?

"Nope, not to my knowledge, but I can't answer that categorically."

Since the speech was such a hit, does this mean Hartmann will do more from now on?

"I don't know how I can do any more."

Chronology continues: about a week ago Ford started working on delivery of speech, first just reading it out loud, then with a videotape machine (a Sony portable screener). He would deliver the speech, have it recorded on videotape, then watch it played back. Hartmann and Bob Orben and Don Penny coached him, usually with a podium set up in the Cabinet room. He practiced it at least once a day.

The passage about debating Carter Ford decided to include a couple of hours before delivery. They started to work out wording for the passage once the VP selection was over, but Ford hadn't decided for sure whether to include it or not. He intended for sure to issue the challenge, but hadn't made up his mind whether to do it as part of the acceptance speech until just before. Hartmann said he left the Crown Center Thursday night for the Arena without knowing whether or not the Pres would use the passage. Hartmann left hotel about 6:00. Just before Hartmann left the hotel, ~~had~~ the Pres had Hartmann's secretary type up the passage on the speech typewriter.

Why did Pres decide to use the passage finally in Hartmann's opinion: "Well, we said we were going to come out fighting and this was a concrete example." Why was the delivery so much better this time? "If he had 2 wks to work on every speech they'd all be that good." Was this best speech Hartmann ever wrote?

"I didn't write it. The president wrote it." *TALBOT, BECKMAN, BERGER*