

September 27, 1976

POOL REPORT FROM THE FONTAINBLEAU HOTEL TO THE VILLA MARIA NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER

Before leaving the Fontainebleau, the President stopped to pose for pictures with FBI Director Clarence Kelley and then went into a small holding area for more pictures with members of the Board of Directors of the International Association of the Chiefs of Police.

The President was then escorted downstairs to an exhibit of the Secret Service. H. Stuart Knight, the SS Director, and Dick Keiser, in charge of the President's detail, briefed the President on the exhibit. He was shown some counterfeit money examples along with some counterfeit savings bonds. We understand the pictures and film taken at the exhibit are to be used for Secret Service recruitment.

When the motorcade left the hotel, there was a small gathering of spectators across the street who cheered when the motorcade went by. On the way to the nursing home, the President made an unscheduled stop at the Gratigny Elementary School. A number of school children were lined up along a fence and were cheering for the President. He went up to the fence and tried in vain to get the children to hush long enough for him to speak. "Quiet, quiet," the President hollered, cupping his mouth with his hands, but the children kept pushing and shoving and making noise. When the President reached over the fence to shake hands, he had to brace himself with both hands when the children began to pull him. The Secret Service helped pull him away from the school children and he returned to the limousine.

The President then went to the nursing home, which is in North Miami and operated by a Catholic order of nuns based in Baltimore (Bon Secour). The President was first introduced to Kathryn Godwyn who was a personal stenographer to Herbert Hoover when Hoover was Secretary of Commerce. Mrs. Godwyn, 81, is from Johnstown, New York. She said she resigned to marry before Hoover became President. Ford told her "you look pretty spry to me" when she told him her age.

The nursing home is a private and charitable institution with beds for one hundred and eighty-five. Ford then made the rounds of shaking hands and chatting with scores of patients in wheelchairs, leaning over in most cases to talk softly to them.

The President then spoke to the group for a few minutes. (A transcript is being made available by the Press Office.) The gist of the remarks was that the country had a "moral obligation" to its older people for more expanded facilities of the type he was visiting. Before leaving the President paused to drink some punch and have a cookie. He then left for an uneventful fifteen minute ride back to the Marriott.

John Mashek/U. S. NEWS

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