

We departed the Marriott Hotel at 4:25, 20 minutes late. Before departure, Florida State Chairman Bill Taylor said that Ford was mightily buoyed by his three-day southern trip and had told him that he would return to Florida two more times in October. ~~The~~ The dates have been penciled in, Taylor said, but he would not say what the dates are.

On the flight, Bob Nessen ventured back for a few words. First, he gave the President's schedule for Tuesday, the 28th. The schedule follows:

8 a.m.—Meets with Republican congressional leaders to discuss legislation and the potential settlement in Rhodesia.

9:45—Cabinet meeting, with a report by Kissinger on Rhodesia.

11:30—The President will sign the Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill—S.327—which augments ^{an} existing program for the purchase and development of park lands. The existing program is authorized through fiscal year 1977, with \$300 million authorized both for f.y. 1976 and 1977. When the president ~~signs~~ signs the new bill, he will set in motion ^{an} additional funding to the tune of \$600 million for f.y. 1978, \$750 million for f.y. 1980 and \$900 million for f.y. 1980. ^{11-year} The program will continue through f.y. 1989 at the \$900 million level. Of the ~~money~~ money authorized, 60 per cent will go to the states for the purchase and development of park lands. The federal government will receive 40 per cent for the same purpose. Nessen said the new bill is a "good companion" for the existing \$1.5 million, 10-year ^{park} program.

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2:30 p.m.—The President ~~will~~ will meet with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich ~~Genscher~~ Genscher. The meeting will be the first of a series of meetings the President is planning to have through the remainder of the week with European ~~foreign~~ foreign ministers in ~~conjunction~~ conjunction with the opening of the U.N. General Assembly. About six foreign ministers are expected to make the trek to the White House, Nessen said. He ~~told~~ told the pool that he does not have

a complete list of the countries to be represented, but he mentioned Great Britain, France, Italy and the Soviet Union.

Having ~~been~~ dispensed with these more or less technical matters, Nessen ventured a few other comments and opinions. According to the press secretary, the President thinks his trek into Dixie was "just terrific." Nessen went on: "Every step of the way, he got warm receptions from the public and also some support from the leading political figures, in many cases Democratic political figures." Your pool asked if that included Gov. Wallace, and Nessen replied: "Sure. I mean, I don't think I would, uh, I mean I cannot say that Wallace is supporting the President. Obviously, he is not. But as Dick (Chesey) said last night, it was ~~significant~~ ^{SIGNIFICANT} that he came out and stayed through the speech and appeared on the same platform."

On the Special Prosecutor's reported investigation of Ford's campaign finances as a congressman, Nessen said: "Nothing has altered our previous response. ~~By that~~ By that he meant that the House Judiciary Committee's background investigation at the time of Ford's nomination for vice president had covered this same ground."

"If you look into their report," he said, ~~they~~ ^W they looked into campaign contributions, ~~XXXXXX~~ I think, from '54 to ~~XXXX~~ '72. And I think the final report said something ~~XXXXXX~~ like 'a number ^{OF} questions were raised, and we looked into them and they were all resolved.'"

Asked if he was heartened by a statement from former Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{JAWORSKI} in which ~~he~~ seemed to indicate that he had seen no evidence of wrongdoing, Nessen said, "I'm just not going to comment on every little development. You know, our basic position is what it has been and nothing has happened to change it."

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