

OCTOBER 6, 1976

POOL NO. 4

Your pool heard President Ford announce the formation of the Citizens for Ford Committee. In remarks in the patio of the Sutro residence, Ford introduced the three co-chairpersons -- former Democratic Representative Edith Green from Oregon, former Ambassador George J. Feldman, and Dom DiMaggio, Joe's brother and a Boston businessman.

Ford said he had worked for years with Ms. Green in the House of Reps. Ford said, "She was a wonderful person to have on your side." The President said he had first met Feldman in 1958 when he was staff director of the Select Committee on Space. The President cited DiMaggio's "active interest in public affairs" and said he got to know DiMaggio by reading the sports pages.

In a brief Q & A session, Ford said the Citizens for Ford Committee would "seek to involve non-Republicans on my behalf."

Ms. Green was asked why she had turned into a Republican. She said that was not the case, she continues to support Democratic candidates in her own State. But as far as Ford is concerned, in her years of dealing with him in the House, she found him to be "a very honest, decent, capable guy." She went on to say that the reason she was supporting Ford was that he is "a guy to be trusted." She continued, "I really do not know Carter. I do not know what he stands for. And believe me, I tried to find out."

Ambassador Feldman was asked why he is not going to support Jimmy Carter. He said, "I don't know where he stands. Congress appropriating money for unemployment isn't going to do the trick itself. We have the experience of a poverty program where lots of money, a tremendous amount of money, was appropriated, but there were no safeguards to protect the public interest. Just spending will not do the trick."

In the Q & A session, Ford was asked how he expects to do in tonight's debate. "I'm looking forward to it," Ford said. He added that he was, "optimistic."

The three co-chairpersons are to meet later today with PFC chairman Jim Baker to discuss details of their role in the campaign. Before meeting with reporters, Ford met privately with the three for nearly a half-hour.

Next, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone was ushered in for a courtesy call on the President. Afterward, Mayor Moscone said what they talked about politically centered around unemployment in the cities. Moscone was asked if he intended to vote for Carter and he said yes, because he likes Carter's stand on the cities. He is working for Carter. Moscone is a Democrat.

Asked how he thought California would go in the election, Moscone said, "I really think it's up in the air. The people aren't going to make up their minds until the last moment." He said a lot will depend on the candidate's "personal involvement" in California.

Footnote No. 1 -- Nessen said that at 9:45 last night the President took a 1/2 hour walk around the neighborhood.

Footnote No. 2 -- DiMaggio predicted that the Yankees will win the World Series.

Wright - U.S. News
Bascom - Mutal
Skelton - LA Times

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