

POOL REPORT

Studio City - Casa Adobe
October 8, 1976

After an uneventful arrival and overnight at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Ford had breakfast with about 200 businessmen and professional types from the San Fernando Valley (which you could hear along with us). 30 minutes later the President went into a stuffy basement convention room where about 300 or so enthusiastic PFC volunteers and party and campaign officials were waiting. He shook hands with the front ranks, which began a chant of "We want Ford" as Ford stood at the podium waving his hands in the double-victory sign.

Ford began by zapping Carter on national defense. "Mr. Carter called for a \$15 billion cut in the defense budget. . . you can't keep America strong with that kind of gutting of the budgets of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines."

"Mr. Carter, waffling as he usually does," Ford alleged in describing Carter's position on the B-1. He repeated his Rockwell remark about sending pilots in planes older than they were as well as "Teddy Roosevelt. . . flyswatter" analogy.

He then repeated his usual campaign rhetoric about Carter and tax reform. And he repeated his boast that he is the first President in 20 years who can say America is at peace.

He closed by saying, "Before Kansas City we were some 30 points behind but now we have the momentum. . . we may still be behind by a narrow margin, but with the right programs and the fact that Carter makes mistake after mistake, we're going to win on November 2."

After shaking a few more hands, Ford walked upstairs and got into his limo for the 20-odd minute drive to Glendale. There he toured Casa Adobe (a one-story adobe building painted white with lovely tree-shaded grounds which dates from 1865). Then he walked to the patio and shook hands with each of the 25 or so Mexican-American representatives. Then he sat alone on a low circular brick wall beneath the base of an olive tree and began what was billed as a dialogue and Q&A. Unfortunately your pool can't verify this since advance men and Ron Nessen were exceedingly eager to have us depart promptly. Arguments got nowhere -- Nessen pointed out that Carter had met privately with reporters and so Ford was justified in having "a private political dialogue." The meeting lasted about 30 minutes.

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